

A RESOLUTION
by The National Volunteer Fire Council
in support of
The Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007

As, citizens of [include areas covered, i.e. states, counties, cities, etc...], we recognize that people and property in our communities are at risk from a variety of hazards including [wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning, and snow or ice storms]; and

Whereas these disasters have the potential for causing widespread injury, loss of lives, and damage to property, community infrastructure, and the environment; and

Whereas we recognize that effective pre-disaster mitigation, thorough preparedness, timely warning, and well-trained and equipped response forces can reduce injuries and deaths caused by a hazard; and

Whereas the hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005, the flooding in 2006, and the tornado and wildfire seasons of 2006 and 2007 clearly demonstrate our nations' on-going vulnerability to natural hazards; and

Whereas the devastating impact of recent natural events is evidence of the need for heightened local, state and federal attention to coordinated measures to mitigate the impact of natural hazards on our communities, and has demonstrated a significant need to support the effective work of building code authorities; and

Whereas the adoption of modern codes is a first step in responsible local governance of the built-environment that must then be coupled with effective local capabilities and programs in code administration. Thorough and effective administration of codes allows the maximum benefit of those regulations to be realized in local building safety, enhanced property value, energy efficiency, hazard mitigation and the availability and affordability of personal and commercial property insurance; and

Whereas effective enforcement of building and fire codes is one of the best means of protecting the welfare of those in our communities, including residents, visitors and emergency responders, from natural disasters that impact our homes, businesses, schools, places of worship, and all other types of construction in the built-environment; and

Whereas, the national benefit providing support for local building code enforcement is clearly evidenced by a recent report of the National Institute for Building Safety that demonstrated that for each federal dollar spent on mitigation the federal government saves nearly \$4 in future disaster recovery expenses; and

Whereas, the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007, when enacted and funded, will provide competitively evaluated federal grants, locally matched, to local governments who seek to build-up or improve their local code administration and enforcement capabilities.

Therefore, it is resolved that:

The National Volunteer Fire Council, on behalf of the more than 1,000,000 volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel in the United States, do request our Members of Congress to support the passage and funding of H.R. 4461/S. 2458, the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007. We further request the International Code Council to deliver this Resolution to Congress and to continue its work on our behalf in the enactment and funding of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007.