

A resolution expressing support for requiring federal infrastructure investments be designed and constructed to the latest codes and standards

Offered by:

International Code Council
International Association of Fire Chiefs
National Association of State Fire Marshals
National Volunteer Fire Council
National Fire Protection Association

Whereas the President declared 118 major disasters in 2017 and 2018, which resulted in more than 3,500 deaths, countless injured, and over \$400 billion in property damage;

Whereas in fiscal year 2018 alone, FEMA spent more than \$20 billion on disaster response and recovery efforts throughout the country;

Whereas between fiscal years 2008 and 2017, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided nearly \$100 billion in financial assistance;

Whereas FEMA expects response and recovery costs to increase due to the rising risk of natural disasters and whereas the costs of disaster recovery, absent more substantive investments in pre-disaster mitigation, is unsustainable for our country;

Whereas adopting and effectively implementing the latest consensus-based codes and standards is one of the nation's best defenses to mitigate the effects of natural disasters on our communities and local first responders;

Whereas a recent study by the Congressionally-established National Institute of Building Science found that using the latest codes and standards provides a benefit of \$11 for every \$1 invested through earthquake, flood, and wind mitigation benefits, with a \$4 to \$1 wildfire mitigation benefit, representing avoided casualties, property damage, business interruptions, urban search and rescue costs, loss of service from damaged fire stations and other public buildings, and insurance costs;

Whereas there is bipartisan agreement on the need for legislation to revitalize our nation's infrastructure;

Whereas building codes and standards requirements differ from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction and absent minimum federal standards, the safety and resilience requirements for government-funded infrastructure investments will vary considerably;

Whereas ensuring that buildings are designed and constructed to the latest codes and standards helps to protect the people, communities, and local first responders who use them;

Whereas ensuring that buildings, funded wholly or in part by federal taxpayer dollars, are, at a minimum, built to the latest codes and standards is a key measure in maximizing and safeguarding government investment in infrastructure with lifespans of 50 to 75 years, or more;

Whereas FEMA requires the latest codes and standards when funding post-disaster rebuilding of public buildings and the federal government requires adherence to the latest codes and standards for its own buildings; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports federal legislation, funding, and policies that require, at a minimum, application of the latest consensus-based codes and standards within any federal investment in our nation's infrastructure.

Unanimously Approved by the on April 26, 2019.