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BY: .....

**Walton County**  
**Planning and Development Services Division**

**Building Department**  
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July 30, 2008

Ms. Sara C. Yerkes  
Senior Vice President of Government Relations  
International Code Council  
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Sixth Floor  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Adoption of Resolution in support of the Community Building Code Administration  
Grant Act

Dear Ms. Yerkes:

I am pleased to forward for your attention and action a Resolution recently adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, in support of the enactment and funding of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act (CBCAG).

As discussed in the Resolution, the citizens and leadership of our County, concerned with the public's interest in building safety and fire prevention, clearly recognize both the need for and the benefits of the support the CBCAG will provide. Our success in development and maintenance of national model building and fire safety codes must be matched with local resources and qualifications to ensure capable and thorough adherence to those codes. The CBCAG will provide support to jurisdictions short on resources but committed to improvement of the quality of the built-environment through effective on-going local code administration. Residents of and visitors to our communities will be served every day by higher quality building and, in turn, the nation will be served by improving the resilience of buildings to natural and man-made disasters.

We thank you for your efforts to bring our Resolution to the attention of Congress and to work actively with our Congressional Delegation to gain enactment and funding of the CBCAG.

Sincerely,

Gerry A. Demers, CBO  
Deputy Building Official  
demgerry@co.walton.fl.us

**Resolution  
2008-73**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**in support of**

**The Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007**

**As, elected officials of Walton County** we recognize that people and property in our community are at risk from a variety of hazards including wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and lightning; 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 all forms of 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.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Walton County hereby encourages Congress to support the passage and funding of H.R. 4461/S. 2458, *The Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007*.

DULY ADOPTED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2008.

  
for Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court

  
Larry D. Jones, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners  
Walton County, Florida