

By Senator Saunders

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Senate Memorial No. \_\_\_\_

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to include in its economic-stimulus legislation tax incentives for building owners who upgrade their firesafety systems consistent with the firesafety provisions of the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code in existing high-rise buildings.

WHEREAS, providing a firesafe environment for our nation's citizens and visitors is an obligation shared by federal, state, and local governments, and

WHEREAS, to fulfill this role, local governments adopt and enforce model building and fire codes promulgated by code-development authorities, and

WHEREAS, following two major high-rise fires, MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas (85 deaths) and the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan (97 deaths), national code-development authorities focused on high-rise buildings because of the potential for major loss of life and untenable fire-suppression conditions, and

WHEREAS, independent studies have found that fire departments cannot respond fast enough to prevent flashover on upper floors of a high-rise building, and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code is nationally accepted and, through adoption by state or local government, is used in all 50 states as a firesafety standard, and

WHEREAS, the Life Safety Code has contained special firesafety requirements for high-rise buildings since its 1991

1 edition, and Florida has adopted the current edition of the  
2 Life Safety Code, and

3 WHEREAS, protecting Florida's economic foundation and  
4 infrastructure is a paramount mission of the Florida  
5 Legislature, and the negative economic impact of a tragic fire  
6 in high-rise residential structures can be documented by  
7 looking at declining tourism following the MGM Grand Hotel  
8 fire in Las Vegas and the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, and

9 WHEREAS, enforcing high-rise firesafety standards for  
10 existing buildings causes hardships for building owners,  
11 particularly condominium owners living on fixed incomes, and

12 WHEREAS, providing tax incentives for building owners  
13 that upgrade firesafety systems in existing high-rise  
14 buildings is consistent with President Bush's economic  
15 stimulus objectives, NOW, THEREFORE,

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17 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19 That the Congress of the United States is requested to  
20 include in its economic-stimulus legislation tax incentives  
21 for building owners who upgrade their firesafety systems  
22 consistent with the firesafety provisions of the National  
23 Firesafety Protection Association's Life Safety Code in  
24 existing high-rise buildings and that the effective dates for  
25 this incentive be January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2014.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
27 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
28 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
29 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
30 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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