

CASTLE, HOUSE PLEDGE SUPPORT TO FIRE ADMINISTRATION -- APRIL 3, 2008

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Congressman Michael Castle (R-DE) voted in favor of H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, which authorizes funding for the United States Fire Administration (USFA) through FY 2012 to provide leadership, coordination, and support services -- which include fire prevention and control, firefighter training and education, and emergency medical services. This bill was agreed to in the House unanimously.

"We are well served by the men and women in Delaware who choose to be our first responders - repeatedly answering the call of duty to ensure our safety. Delawareans are extremely proud that our small state sent thirty-seven ambulances to New York City on September 11th. Giving firefighters the tools that they need for training, equipment, support services, and coordination enables them to be prepared for that inevitable emergency phone call -- no matter what the problem may be," said Rep. Castle. "We must continually work to ensure that fire companies are getting the resources they need to make certain they are ready to serve in the wake of an emergency."

Among other provisions, H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act, specifically:

Authorizes \$70 million in FY 2009, \$72 million in FY 2010 , \$74 million in FY 2011, and \$76million in FY 2012 for USFA programs;

Permits the National Fire Academy to expand training capabilities to preparing for natural disasters, large-scale fires, fires that involve hazardous materials, wildfires, and advanced emergency medical services - in addition to current permission to train for terrorist attacks;

Requires USFA to promote voluntary, national firefighter health and safety standards at local firefighting agencies; and

Requires USFA to provide liaison with local firefighting and emergency medical services agencies to assure coordination of activities between the USFA and such agencies.

Congressman Castle has consistently supported firefighter training programs, such as those overseen by the USFA and the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grants Program administered by the Department of Homeland Security.

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