

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4846

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to provide grants for infrastructure improvements to fire first responders.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2007

Ms. RICHARDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to provide grants for infrastructure improvements to fire first responders.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “First Line of Defense  
5 Infrastructure Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR INFRA-**  
2 **STRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO FIRE FIRST**  
3 **RESPONDER STATIONS.**

4 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
5 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 37. GRANTS TO IMPROVE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN-**  
8 **CIDENT RESPONSE AND FIREFIGHTER LIV-**  
9 **ABILITY THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE IM-**  
10 **PROVEMENTS TO FIRE STATIONS.**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—In  
12 order to improve first responder incident response and  
13 firefighter livability by making improvements to the infra-  
14 structure of fire stations, the Administrator shall establish  
15 a competitive grant program and shall award grants in  
16 each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to eligible fire  
17 services.

18 “(b) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant  
19 awarded under this section shall use the funds to make  
20 improvements to the infrastructure of a specified fire sta-  
21 tion—

22 “(1) by repairing such station if the condition  
23 of the infrastructure of such station prevents the fire  
24 service from performing incident response duties in  
25 a timely manner because such station is either de-  
26 caying or contains structural impairments that im-

1       pede egress of fire service equipment or personnel  
2       from the fire station; or

3               “(2) by renovating such station if it does not  
4       properly accommodate all personnel in the fire serv-  
5       ice through the use of gender-equitable facilities, in-  
6       cluding restroom and shower facilities and sleeping  
7       areas.

8       “(c) PROHIBITED USES.—A recipient of a grant  
9       awarded under this section shall not use the funds for ac-  
10      tivities related to the planning or design of infrastructure  
11      improvements.

12       “(d) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive  
13      a grant under this section, a fire service shall submit an  
14      application to the Administrator at such time, in such  
15      form, and with such information and assurances as the  
16      Administrator may require.

17       “(e) SELECTION PRIORITIES.—In selecting a fire  
18      service to receive a grant under this section, the Adminis-  
19      trator shall give priority to a fire service seeking assistance  
20      for a fire station that is located not more than 25 miles  
21      from—

22               “(1) a facility that produces nuclear power;

23               “(2) a facility that produces, treats, or refines  
24      more than 20,000 barrels of oil per day; or

1           “(3) a location with at least 1 critical infra-  
2           structure, such as an international seaport, airport,  
3           refinery, or treatment plant.

4           “(f) GRANT PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—

5           “(1) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The Administrator  
6           shall not award a grant under this section in an  
7           amount that is more than 40 percent of the reason-  
8           able cost of carrying out the project proposed by the  
9           fire service to be funded by the grant.

10          “(2) GRANT CONDITION.—As a condition of re-  
11          ceipt of a grant under this section, the fire service  
12          shall be responsible for funding, using non-Federal  
13          funds, the remaining amount of the reasonable cost  
14          of carrying out such project.

15          “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16          “(1) The term ‘critical infrastructure’ has the  
17          meaning given such term in the Critical Infrastruc-  
18          tures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c).

19          “(2) The term ‘incident response’ means a re-  
20          sponse by a fire service to—

21                  “(A) a terrorist attack, including such an  
22                  attack that utilizes a weapon of mass destruc-  
23                  tion;

24                  “(B) a release of a hazardous material;

25                  “(C) a natural disaster; or

1                   “(D) any other emergency for which a re-  
2                   sponse by a fire service is appropriate.

3           “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-  
4           dition to any other amounts authorized to be appropriated  
5           under this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated  
6           to the Administrator for grants under this section such  
7           sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009  
8           through 2013.”.

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