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REPORT
110–559

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

MARCH 31, 2008.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, from the Committee on Science and Technology, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4847]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Science and Technology, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4847) to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	Amendment	2
II.	Purpose of the Bill	5
III.	Background and Need for the Legislation	5
IV.	Hearing Summary	6
V.	Committee Actions	6
VI.	Summary of Major Provisions of the Bill	7
VII.	Section-by-Section Analysis	8
VIII.	Committee Views	9
IX.	Cost Estimate	11
X.	Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate	11
XI.	Compliance With Public Law 104–4	13
XII.	Committee Oversight Findings and Recommendations	13
XIII.	Statement on General Performance Goals and Objectives	13
XIV.	Constitutional Authority Statement	13
XV.	Federal Advisory Committee Statement	13
XVI.	Congressional Accountability Act	13
XVII.	Earmark Identification	13
XVIII.	Statement on Preemption of State, Local, or Tribal Law	13
XIX.	Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported	13
XX.	Committee Recommendations	18
XXI.	Proceedings of the Subcommittee Markup	19

69–006

XXII. Proceedings of the Full Committee Markup 43
XXIII. Exchange of Letters 77

I. AMENDMENT

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The loss of life due to fire has dropped significantly over the last 25 years in the United States. However, the United States still has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. In 2005 the National Fire Protection Association reported 3,675 civilian fire deaths, 17,925 civilian fire injuries, and $10,672,000,000 in direct losses due to fire.

(2) Every year, over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. The United States Fire Administration should continue its leadership to help local fire agencies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

(3) Members of the fire service community should continue to work together to further the promotion of national voluntary consensus standards that increase firefighter safety.

(4) The United States Fire Administration provides crucial support to the Nation's 30,300 fire departments through training, emergency incident data collection, fire awareness and education, and support of research and development activities for fire prevention, control, and suppression technologies.

(5) The collection of data on fire and other emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy makers and emergency responders to identify and develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving the United States Fire Administration's data collection capabilities is essential for accurately tracking and responding to the magnitude and nature of the Nation's fire problem.

(6) The research and development performed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the United States Fire Administration, other government agencies, and non-governmental organizations on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance the capabilities of the Nation's fire service to suppress and prevent fires.

(7) The United States Fire Administration is one of the strongest voices representing the Nation's fire service within the Federal Government, and, as such, it should have a prominent place within the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which $2,520,000 shall be used to carry out section 8;

"(F) $72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which $2,595,600 shall be used to carry out section 8;

"(G) $74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which $2,673,468 shall be used to carry out section 8; and

"(H) $76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of which $2,753,672 shall be used to carry out section 8.".

SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking "terrorist-caused national catastrophes" and inserting "terrorist-caused and other national catastrophes";

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking "forest" and inserting "wildland";

(3) in subparagraph (M), by striking "response tactics and" and inserting "response, tactics, and";

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following new subparagraphs:

"(I) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a general area that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

"(J) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban interface;

"(K) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

"(L) advanced emergency medical services training;".

(b) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 7 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual report filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period that begins on the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, and in every third annual report thereafter, the Administrator shall include information about changes made to the Academy curriculum, including—

"(1) the basis for such changes, including a review of the incorporation of lessons learned by emergency response personnel after significant emergency events and emergency preparedness exercises performed under the National Exercise Program; and

"(2) the desired training outcome of all such changes.".

(c) AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 7(f) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206(f)) is amended to read as follows:

"(f) ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to provide assistance to State and local fire service training programs through grants, contracts, or otherwise.

"(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to enter into a contract with one or more nationally recognized organizations that have established on-site training programs that comply with national voluntary consensus standards for fire service personnel to facilitate the delivery of the education and training programs outlined in subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service personnel.

"(B) RESTRICTIONS.—The Administrator shall not enter into a contract with such organization unless such organization—

"(i) operates a fire service training program accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization experienced with accrediting such training; or

"(ii) at the time the Administrator enters into the contract, provides training under such a program under a cooperative agreement with a Federal agency.

"(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 4 per centum of the amount authorized to be appropriated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of this Act.".

(d) INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING COURSE FOR FIRES AT PORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Superintendent of the National Academy for Fire Prevention and Control, shall consolidate and integrate into the current Academy curriculum a course on incident command training for fire service personnel for fighting fires at United States ports and in marine environments, including fires on the water and aboard vessels.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPGRADES.

(a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Section 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the Administrator shall use no more than an aggregate amount of $5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting database, including capital investment, contractor engagement, and user education.".

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking "assist State," and inserting "assist Federal, State,".

SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking "RURAL ASSISTANCE" in the heading and inserting "RURAL AND WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE";

(2) by striking "The Administrator" and inserting "(1) The Administrator"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) The Administrator is authorized to assist the Nation's fire services, directly or through contracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, to sponsor and encourage research into approaches, techniques, systems, and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in the wildland-urban interface.".

(b) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Section 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, the Administrator, in collaboration with the relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government, shall make available to the public information about all ongoing and planned fire-related research funded by the Administration during fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter, as well as the results generated from such research, through a regularly updated Internet-based database.".

SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

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

"SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

"The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire services of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety, including such standards for firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by educating fire services about such standards, encouraging the adoption at all levels of government of such standards, and making recommendations on other ways in which the Federal government can promote the adoption of such standards by fire services.".

SEC. 8. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e)) is amended to read as follows:

"(e) COORDINATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall utilize existing programs, data, information, and facilities already available in other Federal Government departments and agencies and, where appropriate, existing research organizations, centers, and universities.

"(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter related to programs of fire prevention and control with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.

"(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with programs related to emergency medical services provided by fire service-based systems with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.".

(b) FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BEST PRACTICES.—Section 8(c) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) The Administrator is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, studies of the operations and management aspects of fire service-based emergency medical services and coordination between emergency medical services and fire services. Such studies may include the optimum protocols for on-scene care, the allocation of resources, and the training requirements for fire service-based emergency medical services.".

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking "Administration" and inserting "Administration, who is the Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency";

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and";

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

"(6) 'hazardous materials' has the meaning given such term in section 5102(2) of title 49, United States Code;"; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(10) 'wildland-urban interface' has the meaning given such term in section 101(16) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(16)).".

II. Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of this bill is to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and to authorize USFA's activities in training, fire education and awareness, data collection, research, and standards development and promotion.

III. Background and Need for the Legislation

USFA is housed within the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It was created by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93–498). The agency's mission is to reduce the incidence of fire and fire-related deaths, injuries, and property damage in the U.S., and to better prepare the Nation's fire service as primary local emergency responders. To accomplish its mission, USFA engages in the following core activities: public fire education and awareness programs; firefighter and emergency responder training delivery and curriculum development; fire-focused applied research and technology development; data collection through the National Fire Data Center; and logistical and programmatic support for DHS grants to firefighters under the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants program.

USFA's stated goal upon its establishment in 1974 was to reduce fire-related fatalities in the Nation by half—bringing the number to approximately six thousand per year within a generation. The agency met this goal by 1988, and the number of deaths continues to decline. However, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) the U.S. still has one of the highest rates of death, injury, and property loss due to fire among all industrialized nations. NFPA reports that in 2006 there were 3,245 civilian fire deaths, 16,400 fire injuries, and an estimated $11.307 billion in direct property losses due to fire. They estimate that the fire fatality rate is 14.8 per million. USFA also reports that every year an average of 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. The agency works to reduce these statistics, as well as help firefighters prepare for the growing number of hazards and emergencies calling for firefighter response, such as natural disasters, hazardous materials events, and terrorist attacks.

IV. Hearing Summary

On Tuesday, October 2, 2007, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science and Technology held a hearing to examine U.S. Fire Administration programs and activities. Witnesses testified on the needs and priorities of the Nations fire service regarding the services and programs provided by USFA.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from Chief Gregory Cade, the U.S. Fire Administrator; Dr. Shyam Sunder, the director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Building and Fire Research Lab; Chief Steven P. Westermann, President and Chief Fire Officer for the International Association of Fire Chiefs; Captain Robert Livingston of the Salem, Orgegon Fire Department, testifying on behalf of the International Association of Fire Fighters; Chief Gordon Henderson, past president of the Georgia State Firefighters' Association, testifying on behalf of the National Volunteer Fire Council; and Dr. John R. Hall, the Assistant Vice President for Fire Analysis and Research at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Witnesses discussed the status of core USFA activities, such as public education and outreach, fire research and data analysis, and emergency responder training programs. The witnesses identified firefighter health and safety, training for fighting fires in the wildland urban interface, training for advanced topics in emergency medical services (EMS) and improvement of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) as pressing needs for USFA and the fire service. The witnesses also testified that USFA needed higher funding levels to fully meet the demand from fire service and emergency personnel for USFA programming and courses.

V. Committee Actions

The Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation heard testimony in the 110th Congress relevant to the programs authorized in H.R. 4847 at a hearing held on October 2, 2007. During this hearing, the Subcommittee heard testimony from the Director of the U.S. Fire Administration, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Building and Fire Research Laboratory, and four outside witnesses representing different sectors of the fire service community.

On December 19 2007, Representative Harry Mitchell, Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation of the Committee on Science and Technology, for himself and Representative Phil Gingrey, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, introduced H.R. 4847, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the U.S. Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

The Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation met to consider H.R. 4847 on Thursday, February 15, 2008 and considered the following amendment to the bill:

Mr. Mitchell offered a manager's amendment to change references in the bill to "voluntary national consensus standards" to "national voluntary consensus standards", the preferred term, and to make a technical change to subsection (c) of section 4.

Mr. Gingrey moved that the Subcommittee favorably report the bill, H.R. 4847, as amended, to the Full Committee. The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Full Committee on Science and Technology met on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, to consider H.R. 4847 and the following amendments to the bill:

An amendment was offered by Mr. Mitchell to make technical changes to the language in section 4 and to broaden the types of organizations that Administrator is authorized to enter into contracts with to deliver USFA training to state and local fire service personnel, to include groups that, at the time of contracting, offer training to state and local personnel on behalf of another Federal agency. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

An amendment was offered by Mr. Gingrey to authorize the U.S. Fire Administrator to conduct studies, either directly or through contracts or grants, on the operation and management aspects of fire service-based emergency medical services. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

An amendment was offered by Ms. Richardson to require the U.S. Fire Administration, in consultation with the National Fire Academy Superintendent, to consolidate and integrate into the current National Fire Academy curriculum a course on incident command training for fire service personnel fighting fires at U.S. ports and in marine environments, including on the water and shipboard fires. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

Mr. Baird moved that the Committee favorably report the bill, H.R. 4847, as amended to the House with the recommendation that the bill, as amended, do pass, and that the staff be instructed to make technical and conforming changes to the bill as amended and prepare the legislative report and that the Chairman take all necessary steps to bring the bill before the house for consideration. The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

VI. Summary of Major Provisions of the Bill

H.R. 4847 authorizes a total of $292 million for the U.S. Fire Administration for fiscal years 2009 through 2012. It also authorizes the National Fire Academy to engage in training activities related to firefighting in the wildland-urban interface; multiple, large-scale fires that cross jurisdictions and stretch resources; hazardous material incidents; and advanced topics in emergency medical services (EMS). The bill authorizes the U.S. Fire Administrator to enter into contracts with qualified third-party organizations to deliver USFA training to state and local entities, and the bill requires USFA, in every third annual report to Congress, to detail any changes made to the Fire Academy curriculum, and to provide the rational and objectives for those changes. The bill requires the Administrator to consolidate and integrate into the NFA curriculum a course on incident command training for fires at ports and in marine environments. H.R. 4847 authorizes the Administrator to spend up to $5 million over three years to update and improve the National Fire Incident Reporting System to allow real-time, web-based reporting that will provide data to users in a more timely and efficient manner. The bill requires USFA to keep an updated website of past and present research projects, and requires the Administrator to educate local fire departments on national voluntary

consensus standards for firefighter health and safety and to promote their adoption. Lastly, H.R. 4847 requires the Administrator to include EMS in his liaison and coordination activities across the Federal Government, and it authorizes the Administrator to conduct studies of the operation and management aspects of fire based-EMS.

VII. Section-by-Section Analysis

Section 1. Short title

The United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008"

Section 2. Findings

Finds that the rate of life and property loss due to fire in the U.S. is still one of the highest in the industrialized world and that a significant number of firefighters die or suffer injury each year. Finds that the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) provides vital resources and leadership to the Nation's fire service and should have a prominent voice at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Section 3. Authorizations of appropriations

Authorizes appropriations: $70,000,000 for FY2009; $72,100,000 for FY2010; $74,263,000 for FY2011; and $76,490,890 for FY2012. Each fiscal year, 3.6 percent of the funds authorized are authorized to be used to carry out fire technology research and related activities.

Section 4. National Fire Academy training program modifications and reports

Amends the list of training activities the National Fire Academy is authorized to engage in by expanding terrorism specific catastrophe response to all-hazard catastrophe response; authorizes training for response to large-scale fire events that involve multiple jurisdictions and stretch resources; authorizes training for firefighting activities in the wildland-urban interface; authorizes training for fire and emergencies involving hazardous materials; and authorizes training for advanced issues related to emergency medical services.

Requires the Administrator to include a description of any changes to the National Fire Academy (NFA) curriculum in every third annual USFA report to Congress.

Authorizes the Administrator to enter into contracts to provide on-site training through accredited or otherwise qualified organizations experienced with delivering such training.

Requires the Administrator to consolidate and integrate into the NFA curriculum a course on incident command for fires in marine and port environments into the NFA's incident command training.

Section 5. National Fire Incident Reporting System improvements

Authorizes the Administrator to use a maximum of $5 million dollars from the total appropriated over the years FY2009 to FY2011 to upgrade the National Fire incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

Section 6. Fire technology assistance and research dissemination

Authorizes USFA to engage in research related to technologies, techniques, approaches, etc., to address fire suppression and prevention for fires in the wildland-urban interface.

Requires USFA to maintain a web database of research and related activities.

Section 7. Encouraging the adoption of standards for firefighter health and safety

Directs the Administrator to promote the adoption of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety by educating the fire service; encouraging standards adoption at all levels of government; and making recommendations on other ways the Federal government can encourage state, local, and federal fire agencies to comply with these standards.

Sec. 8. Coordination on fire service-based emergency medical services

Amends Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 by directing the Administrator to include fire service-based emergency medical services (EMS) in his liaison and coordination activities across the Federal government.

Authorizes the Administrator to conduct studies, either directly or through contracts, on the operations and management aspects of fire service-based EMS.

Sec. 9. Definitions

Defines wildland urban interface and hazardous materials.

VIII. Committee Views

GENERAL VIEWS

The U.S. Fire Administration's mission is to reduce the loss of life and property from fire and related emergencies. The agency accomplishes this mission by providing critical resources and leadership to firefighters and fire personnel around the country. Each year, fire injures and kills more Americans than all other natural disasters combined. While this number has significantly decreased since USFA's establishment in 1974, the U.S. still has one of the highest rates of death and injury from fire in the industrialized world.

Firefighters are the Nation's primary local first responders. They are the first responders to a wide scope of incidents, which includes hurricanes, terrorist attacks, vehicular accidents, and wildland fires that encroach into communities. USFA's fire service training programs, educational and fire awareness programs, fire data collection, and fire related research activities help the fire service meet these dynamic and growing challenges. The Committee urges USFA to maintain a multi-hazards approach in the agency's training and programs.

USFA is the main voice for the fire service within the Federal Government. The President's FY2009 budget request transfers USFA from a stand-alone account to the FEMA Operations, Management, and Administration account. The U.S. Fire Administration was created in response to specifically address the high loss

of life, injury, and damage from fire endured by the Nation each year. Fire death rates in the U.S. are among the highest in the industrialized world and the country still faces over $11 billion in property losses each year. The Committee feels there is still a strong need for an agency with a mission specifically devoted to reducing losses from fire. This authorization underscores the importance the Committee places on USFA as an intact, stand-alone account rather than one subsumed into an agency with a much broader mandate.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

The Committee feels that the authorization levels set out in this bill are consistent with providing for USFA to fully carry out its mission to protect the public and enhance the Nation's firefighting and emergency response capability.

DIRECT DELIVERY OF USFA TRAINING

The Administrator is authorized to use up to four percent of the USFA budget for training through the National Fire Academy (NFA) for delivering training directly to state and local fire personnel. Section 4 explicitly authorizes the Administrator to contract through qualified third-party organizations to deliver this training to state and local fire service personnel. To qualify, groups must either have the proper accreditation from a nationally recognized organization experienced in offering such accreditation or they must already offer relevant training through another Federal agency. The Committee believes that the Administrator should have the discretion to contract with qualified organizations to offer USFA training if the training is equivalent to the training USFA offers; will benefit local first responders; and does not place unnecessary costs on the Federal government. The Committee believes that this flexibility will give USFA a range of options that will allow the agency to deliver the best possible training to firefighters.

NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (NFIRS)

Section 5 authorizes the Administrator to use up to $5 million to improve NFIRS over three years. NFIRS provides data vital to tracking trends in fires and other emergency incidents across the country. However, currently only about half of these incidents are captured by the system. Local departments send their data by paper or computer file to a state agency who will then periodically upload data to the NFIRS database at the National Fire Data Center. The delayed pace at which data are reported and posted decreases the database's utility to local decision makers. The Committee believes USFA should modernize this system to create a user friendly, web-based interface that will speed up incident reporting, capture a higher percentage of the fire and emergency incidents across the country, and be useful to fire personnel and policy makers.

COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Emergency medical care has become an increasingly important part of fire-service training and response. In many localities these

services are provided through fire service- based medical systems that provide cross-training between firefighting and emergency medical treatment. In other localities EMS is provided by third-party entities that coordinate with fire-services to respond to emergencies that require medical intervention in addition to safety and rescue expertise. The Committee believes that the Administrator must recognize the growing role of EMS within many fire departments and provide appropriate services to those departments.

It is the Committee's intent that as a general practice the Administrator shall utilize the programs and research available from the DHS Office of Health Affairs, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, and other relevant federal agencies in developing recommendations for the operations and management of fire services with the proviso that all out-of-hospital medical care should be provided under medical direction. The Administrator shall seek inclusion on appropriate coordination mechanisms such as the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (42 U.S.C. § 300d–4). To the extent that information is not available through these partners, the Administrator may conduct new studies focused on the needs of fire services.

IX. Cost Estimate

A cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted to the Committee on Science and Technology prior to the filing of this report and is included in Section X of this report pursuant to House Rule XIII, clause 3(c)(3).

H.R. 4847 does not contain new budget authority, credit authority, or changes in revenues or tax expenditures. Assuming that the sums authorized under the bill are appropriated, H.R. 4847 does authorize additional discretionary spending, as described in the Congressional Budget Office report on the bill, which is contained in Section X of this report.

X. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate

H.R. 4847—United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008

Summary: H.R. 4847 would reauthorize the United States Fire Administration (USFA) through 2012. The USFA conducts research and development in fire-related technology, collects and disseminates information about fire and other emergency incidents, and provides training to firefighters and emergency responders. Based on historical expenditure data and assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4847 would cost $291 million over the 2009–2013 period. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 4847 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4847 is shown in the following table. The costs

of this legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for the U.S. Fire Administration:						
Budget Authority	43	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	42	13	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes:						
Authorization Level	0	70	72	74	76	0
Estimated Outlays	0	49	71	73	75	23
Spending Under H.R. 4847 for the U.S. Fire Administration:						
Authorization Level/Budget Authority	43	70	72	74	76	0
Estimated Outlays	42	62	71	73	75	23

Basis of estimate: H.R. 4847 would authorize the appropriation of $292 million over the 2009–2012 period for the USFA to carry out research and development activities related to fire technology, collect and disseminate information through the National Fire Data Center, and provide training to firefighters and emergency responders. Such funding would include $5 million to upgrade the National Fire Incident Reporting System to accommodate real-time, Web-based incident reporting. In 2008, the Congress appropriated about $43 million to the USFA (see Public Law 110–161).

In addition to its current activities, H.R. 4847 would authorize several new functions for the USFA. The bill would direct the National Fire Academy to provide training on: incidents occurring at ports and in areas where structures and other human development intersect with undeveloped land, multi-jurisdictional fires, hazardous materials incidents, and advanced emergency medical services. The Administrator of the USFA would be authorized to enter into contracts with qualified organizations to provide on-site training in those and other fire-related topics to firefighters and emergency personnel. The bill also would direct USFA to conduct several studies on the operation, management, and coordination of fire and emergency medical services.

Based on historical expenditure patterns, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4847 would cost $291 million over the 2009–2013 period. This estimate assumes that the bill will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2008 and that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 4847 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Those governments would benefit from the authorization of appropriations in the bill for grants, training, and technical assistance.

Estimate prepared by: Federal costs: Daniel Hoople; Impact on state, local, and tribal governments: Melissa Merrell; Impact on the private sector: Amy Petz.

Estimate approved by: Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

XI. Compliance With Public Law 104–4

H.R. 4847 contains no unfunded mandates.

XII. Committee Oversight Findings and Recommendations

The oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology are reflected in the body of this report.

XIII. Statement on General Performance Goals and Objectives

Pursuant to clause (3)(c) of House rule XIII, the goal of H.R. 4847 is to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration and enable USFA to meet the evolving needs of the Nation's fire service.

XIV. Constitutional Authority Statement

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact H.R. 4847.

XV. Federal Advisory Committee Statement

H.R. 4847 does not establish nor authorize the establishment of any advisory committee.

XVI. Congressional Accountability Act

The Committee finds at H.R. 4847 does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104–1).

XVII. Earmark Identification

H.R. 4847 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

XVIII. Statement on Preemption of State, Local, or Tribal Law

This bill is not intended to preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

XIX. Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

FEDERAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1974

* * * * * * *

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term—

(1) * * *

* * * * * * *

(3) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the United States Fire [Administration] *Administration, who is the Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency*;

* * * * * * *

(6) "hazardous materials" has the meaning given such term in section 5102(2) of title 49, United States Code;

[(6)] *(7)* "local" means of or pertaining to any city, town, county, special purpose district, unincorporated territory, or other political subdivision of a State;

[(7)] *(8)* "place of public accommodation affecting commerce" means any inn, hotel, or other establishment not owned by the Federal Government that provides lodging to transient guests, except that such term does not include an establishment treated as an apartment building for purposes of any State or local law or regulation or an establishment located within a building that contains not more than 5 rooms for rent or hire and that is actually occupied as a residence by the proprietor of such establishment; [and]

[(8)] *(9)* "State" means any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and any other territory or possession of the United States[.]*; and*

(10) "wildland-urban interface" has the meaning given such term in section 101(16) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(16)).

* * * * * * *

NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

SEC. 7. (a) * * *

* * * * * * *

(d) PROGRAM OF THE ACADEMY.—The Superintendent is authorized to—

(1) train fire service personnel in such skills and knowledge as may be useful to advance their ability to prevent and control fires, including, but not limited to—

(A) * * *

* * * * * * *

(H) response, tactics, and strategies for dealing with [terrorist-caused national catastrophes] *terrorist-caused and other national catastrophes*;

(I) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a general area that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

(J) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban interface;

(K) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

(L) advanced emergency medical services training;

[(I)] *(M)* use of and familiarity with the Federal Response Plan;

[(J)] *(N)* leadership and strategic skills, including integrated management systems operations and integrated response;

[(K)] *(O)* applying new technology and developing strategies and tactics for fighting [forest] *wildland* fires;

[(L)] *(P)* integrating the activities of terrorism response agencies into national terrorism incident response systems;

[(M)] *(Q)* [response tactics and] *response, tactics, and* strategies for fighting fires at United States ports, including fires on the water and aboard vessels; and

[(N)] *(R)* the training of present and future instructors in the aforementioned subjects;

* * * * * * *

[(f) ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator is authorized to provide assistance to State and local fire service training programs through grants, contracts, or otherwise. Such assistance shall not exceed 4 per centum of the amount authorized to be appropriated in each fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of this Act.]

(f) ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to provide assistance to State and local fire service training programs through grants, contracts, or otherwise.

(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to enter into a contract with one or more nationally recognized organizations that have established on-site training programs that comply with national voluntary consensus standards for fire service personnel to facilitate the delivery of the education and training programs outlined in subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service personnel.

(B) RESTRICTIONS.—The Administrator shall not enter into a contract with such organization unless such organization—

(i) operates a fire service training program accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization experienced with accrediting such training; or

(ii) at the time the Administrator enters into the contract, provides training under such a program under a cooperative agreement with a Federal agency.

(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 4 per centum of the amount authorized to be appropriated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of this Act.

* * * * * * *

(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual report filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period that begins on the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, and in every third annual report thereafter, the Administrator shall

include information about changes made to the Academy curriculum, including—

(1) the basis for such changes, including a review of the incorporation of lessons learned by emergency response personnel after significant emergency events and emergency preparedness exercises performed under the National Exercise Program; and

(2) the desired training outcome of all such changes.

FIRE TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 8. (a) * * *

* * * * * * *

(c) MANAGEMENT STUDIES.—(1) * * *

(2) The Administrator is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, studies of the operations and management aspects of fire service-based emergency medical services and coordination between emergency medical services and fire services. Such studies may include the optimum protocols for on-scene care, the allocation of resources, and the training requirements for fire service-based emergency medical services.

[(2)**]** *(3)* The Administrator is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, research concerning the productivity and efficiency of fire service personnel, the job categories and skills required by fire services under varying conditions, the reduction of injuries to fire service personnel, the most effective fire prevention programs and activities, and techniques for accurately measuring and analyzing the foregoing.

[(3)**]** *(4)* The Administrator is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, development, testing, and demonstration projects to the extent deemed necessary to introduce and to encourage the acceptance of new technology, standards, operating methods, command techniques, and management systems for utilization by the fire services.

[(4)**]** *(5)* The Administrator is authorized to assist the Nation's fire services, directly or through contracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, to measure and evaluate, on a cost-benefit basis, the effectiveness of the programs and activities of each fire service and the predictable consequences on the applicable local fire services of coordination or combination, in whole or in part, in a regional, metropolitan, or statewide fire service.

(d) **[**RURAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator**]** *RURAL AND WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Administrator* is authorized to assist the Nation's fire services, directly or through contracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, to sponsor and encourage research into approaches, techniques, systems, and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in the rural and remote areas of the Nation.

(2) The Administrator is authorized to assist the Nation's fire services, directly or through contracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, to sponsor and encourage research into approaches, techniques, systems, and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in the wildland-urban interface.

* * * * * * *

(h) RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthor-

ization Act of 2008, the Administrator, in collaboration with the relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government, shall make available to the public information about all ongoing and planned fire-related research funded by the Administration during fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter, as well as the results generated from such research, through a regularly updated Internet-based database.

NATIONAL FIRE DATA CENTER

SEC. 9. (a) * * *

(b) METHODS.—In carrying out the program of the Data Center, the Administrator is authorized to—

(1) * * *

(2) encourage and **[**assist State,**]** *assist Federal, State,* local, and other agencies, public and private, in developing and reporting information; and

* * * * * * *

(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the Administrator shall use no more than an aggregate amount of $5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting database, including capital investment, contractor engagement, and user education.

* * * * * * *

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 17. (a) * * *

* * * * * * *

(g)(1) Except as otherwise specifically provided with respect to the payment of claims under section 11 of this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act—

(A) * * *

* * * * * * *

(C) $66,796,000 for fiscal year 2007, of which $2,404,000 shall be used to carry out section 8(f); **[**and**]**

(D) $68,800,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which $2,476,000 shall be used to carry out section 8(f)**[**.**]***;*

(E) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which $2,520,000 shall be used to carry out section 8;

(F) $72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which $2,595,600 shall be used to carry out section 8;

(G) $74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which $2,673,468 shall be used to carry out section 8; and

(H) $76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of which $2,753,672 shall be used to carry out section 8.

* * * * * * *

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 21. (a) * * *

* * * * * * *

[(e) COORDINATION.—To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall utilize existing programs, data, information, and facilities already available in other Federal Government departments and agencies and, where appropriate, existing research organizations, centers, and universities. The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of his activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter related to programs of fire prevention and control with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.]

(e) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall utilize existing programs, data, information, and facilities already available in other Federal Government departments and agencies and, where appropriate, existing research organizations, centers, and universities.

(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter related to programs of fire prevention and control with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.

(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with programs related to emergency medical services provided by fire service-based systems with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.

* * * * * * *

SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire services of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety, including such standards for firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by educating fire services about such standards, encouraging the adoption at all levels of government of such standards, and making recommendations on other ways in which the Federal government can promote the adoption of such standards by fire services.

XX. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On February 27, 2008, the Committee on Science and Technology favorably reported The United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008 by a voice vote, and recommended its enactment.

XXI. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARKUP BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON H.R. 4847, THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:15 a.m., in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. David Wu [Chairman of the Subcommittee] presiding.

Chairman WU. Good morning. The Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation will now come to order. Pursuant to notice, the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation meets to consider the following measures: H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007.* It appears to me that we are no longer in 2007. Is that going to be an administrative amendment? Terrific—as read, 2007; H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act,* and H.R. 3916, *To provide for the next generation of border and maritime security technologies.*

We will now proceed with the markup, beginning with opening statements, and the Chairman recognizes himself.

First of all, I would like to welcome everyone to the first Science and Technology Committee markup of 2008. We had a very productive first session in 2007, and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to pass more good legislation this year. Today we will be considering three bills, each of which deals with protecting and enhancing our nation's critical infrastructure our environment. H.R. 4847, introduced by the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee, Representative Mitchell, the gentleman from Arizona, and with Subcommittee Ranking Member Gingrey as an original co-sponsor, reauthorizes the United States Fire Administration. USFA is an important resource for our nation's firefighters, providing training, fire safety awareness for the public, data collection services, and fire-suppression and prevention research and technology. I am pleased we are considering H.R. 4847 today, a bill worked on hard by both Republicans and Democrats, and will authorize USFA to continue its role as a leader and resource for the Nation's fire service, and help enable firefighters to meet the dynamic and growing mission of the fire service in the 21st century.

We will also be considering H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act.* As you may remember, this past May, we heard from the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation, as well as local governments and industry. They agreed that we have a great opportunity in this country to manage and protect our water resources through the use of innovative technologies and also serve

as transportation infrastructure and as means for managing and filtering storm water runoff.

The EPA witness, Assistant Administrator for Water, Ben Grumbles, is already making a great effort to promote the expanded use of such infrastructure around the U.S., but he and the other witnesses found a number of barriers, which this bill works to overcome through research and education programs at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Finally, H.R. 3916, introduced by Ranking Member Hall, authorizes programs at the Department of Homeland Security to improve the technology used to protect the Nation's borders and ports of entry. Border security officers have an incredibly difficult job. It is part law enforcement, part first responder, part diplomat, and part detective. It is clear that these agents need the help of new technology to do their jobs better and to make our borders more secure. Technology can act as additional eyes and ears for Border Patrol agents.

This bill has special importance for me, as these technologies help reinforce security efforts at ports in addition to land borders. The Port of Portland processed more than fourteen million tons of cargo in 2007, and our international airport also screened in a number of people coming in from overseas. I know that the hard-working officers managing security at the Port of Portland could use the assistance of these innovative technologies.

These three bills share an important common theme: the use of research and technology to solve some of our nation's most pressing problems. I am eager to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in advancing these important objectives.

[The prepared statement of Chairman Wu follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DAVID WU

First of all, I'd like to welcome everyone to the first Science and Technology Committee markup of 2008. We had a very productive first session, and I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues to pass good legislation this year. Today we will be considering three bills, each of which deals with protecting and enhancing our nation's critical infrastructure and environment.

H.R. 4847, introduced by the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee, Representative Mitchell, and with Subcommittee Ranking Member Gingrey as an original co-sponsor, reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration. The U.S. Fire Administration is an important resource for our nation's firefighters, providing training, fire safety awareness for the public, data collection services, and fire suppression and prevention research and technology.

I am pleased we are considering H.R. 4847 today, a bipartisan piece of legislation that will authorize USFA to continue its role as a leader and resource for the Nation's firefighters, and help firefighters save lives and meet the dynamic mission of the fire service in the 21st century.

We will also be considering H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act.* This past May this subcommittee held a hearing that included witnesses from the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and representatives of local government and industry. The witnesses agreed that we have a great opportunity to manage and protect our nation's water resources by using of innovative techniques and technologies that simultaneously serve as transportation infrastructure and as means for managing and filtering storm water.

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Finally, H.R. 3916, introduced by Ranking Member Hall, authorizes programs at the Department of Homeland Security to improve the technology used to protect the

Nation's borders and ports of entry. Border security officers have an incredibly difficult job. It is part law enforcement, part first responder, part diplomat, and part detective. It is clear that these agents need the help of new technology to do their jobs better and to make our borders more secure. Technology can act as additional eyes and ears for Border Patrol agents.

This bill has special importance for me, as these technologies help reinforce security efforts at ports in addition to land borders. The Port of Portland processed more than fourteen million tons of cargo in 2007, and I know that the hardworking officers managing security there could use the assistance these innovative technologies would provide.

These three bills share an important common theme—the use of research and technology to solve some of our nation's most pressing problems. I'm eager to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in advancing this important legislation.

Chairman WU. And now, I recognize the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Dr. Gingrey, the gentleman from Georgia, to present his opening remarks.

Mr. GINGREY. Chairman Wu, I thank you for holding this subcommittee markup on the three pieces of legislation that address a wide range of issues under the jurisdiction of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. We have the privilege today to be conducting the Science Committee's first official business of the year, and the 2nd session of 110th Congress.

Today, we consider H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007;* H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act;* and finally, H.R. 3916, a border-security technology bill.

As we consider each piece of legislation, we will reaffirm that the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee plays an important role in a number of issues urgently facing our country. Today, we will be examining issues facing first responders in local communities on a daily basis, the impact that our transportation infrastructure has on the contamination of our water supplies, and developing the next-generation technologies for the Federal Government to keep our borders secure.

Mr. Chairman, I want to also thank you for the way the Subcommittee has conducted the process by which each piece of legislation is being considered today. Each of the bills being marked up today has gone through a—what we all refer to and know as regular order. The Subcommittee held an individual hearing on each bill, last year in 2007, and that provided Members with the opportunity to ask questions of these experts, in order for us to be better informed as we crafted each bill to, hopefully, perfection or near-perfection.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you. I want to thank you for allowing us to work in a bipartisan manner on each piece of legislation. As these three bills demonstrate, we can accomplish more for the American people when Republicans and Democrats work together. Mr. Chairman, I applaud you and your staff for working with me and my Republican staff on the Committee to balance all perspectives to make these bills sound policy.

So Mr. Chairman, I hope this markup is an indication of how we can expect the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee to continue to operate throughout the year 2008. I look forward to working with on these issues that we will discuss and debate today, as well as other matters that will come before the Subcommittee for the rest of this year.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gingrey follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PHIL GINGREY

Chairman Wu, I want to thank you for holding this subcommittee mark-up on three pieces of legislation that address a wide range of issues under the jurisdiction of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. We have the privilege today to be conducting the Science Committee's first official business of this year and the 2nd Session of the 110th Congress.

Today, we consider H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007;* H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act;* and H.R. 3916, a border security technology bill.

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With that Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman WU. Thank you very much, Dr. Gingrey, and without objection, Members may place statement may place statements in the record at this point.

We will now consider H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007.* I yield to Mr. Mitchell, the gentleman from Arizona, five minutes to describe this bill.

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that the Subcommittee is marking up H.R. 4847, a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration, introduced by myself with the original co-sponsorship of the Subcommittee Ranking Member, Dr. Gingrey.

The wildfires this past fall in California reminded us all of the vital role the fire service plays in protecting our communities. Although we have made significant strides in reducing fire-related deaths and injuries since Congress created the Fire Administration in the early 1970s, over 3,000 Americans a year still die in fires, and many more than that are injured. The Nation also suffers over $11 billion in fire-related property losses, annually. Fire clearly continues to be a major problem in the U.S.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an invaluable resource for the thousands of firefighters and emergency personnel around the country. Through training, educational materials, data collection, and other services, USFA provides tools and leadership to the fire service and the communities they serve. H.R. 4847 authorizes this important agency, for four years, at funding levels consistent for USFA to fully carry out its mission, and it authorizes USFA to

focus its resources on pressing challenges for today's first responders, like fighting fires in the wild, and urban interface, and responding to incidents involving hazardous materials.

The bill also directs the USFA to improve the national fire-incident reporting system, which provides important data on fire events to policy-makers at all levels of government.

At the hearing the Subcommittee held last October, we learned that today's firefighters are called on to respond to and prepare for an increasing number of emergencies. This reauthorization gives USFA the authority and direction to meet the dynamic and evolving mission of the Nation's fire service. The bill also directs USFA to continue its leadership in addressing firefighter health and safety. Tragically, every year, over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. H.R. 4847 directs the fire administrator to educate local departments on voluntary national-consensus standards that address firefighter health and safety and encourage communities to adopt these standards.

H.R. 4847 is the product of bipartisan collaboration and considerable input from the fire service community. The resources and leadership of USFA are an essential part of the ability of the fire service to protect our cities, towns, and communities, and I urge the Subcommittee to pass this bill and report it out favorably, and I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mitchell follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE HARRY E. MITCHELL

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased that the Subcommittee is marking up H.R. 4847, a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration, introduced by myself with the original co-sponsorship of the Subcommittee Ranking Member, Mr. Gingrey.

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Chairman WU. Thank you very much, Mr. Mitchell, and now, I would like to recognize Dr. Gingrey, the co-sponsor of the legislation for any remarks that he may have.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for providing our subcommittee with the opportunity to consider H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007.*

As the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation, I want to commend, of course, the bill's sponsor, Mr. Mitchell, from Arizona, for bringing forward this legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration. I am very pleased that we have worked, again, in a bipartisan manner over these past few months to prepare the bill we have before us today.

The mission of USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leaderships, advocacy, coordination, and support. This organization provides vital assistance in the areas of training, fire education, and awareness, and it awards grants to a number of local fire departments across this country. These activities have made a substantial impact over the past 30 years.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that because of the work of the USFA, smoke alarms are now standard issue in residences across the country. Over a million firefighters have received advanced training, and firefighter equipment and safety continually improves. USFA should be proud of its record of achievement; however, it is also clear that improvements can still be made.

In the last ten years, deaths have—that are related to fires have decreased by approximately 25 percent, from nearly 5,000 in 1996 to 3,675 in 2006. Although that decreases in fire-related deaths is commendable, the United States still has one of the highest death rates from fire in the entire industrialized world. Additionally, Mr. Chairman, despite decreases in the number of fires, direct-damage costs are increasing and surpassed $10 billion per year. To put it another way, in an average year, fires cause as much damage in the United States as hurricanes. That's a surprising statistic. The reauthorization of USFA will allow the agency to continue to improve our preparedness and reduce our vulnerability to fire.

Mr. Chairman, however, I think you know I have some concerns about the adequacy and potentially duplicative nature of fire-administrating activities in the realm of EMS services, emergency medical services, in regard to what is already provided in some communities. As we move forward on H.R. 4847, I hope that other Members of the Science Committee and the fire community can continue to discuss better ways to implement best practices for training, system design, and on-the-scene care for fire-based EMS, emergency medical services while making sure to work with the existing medical services in these communities. You can imagine a situation where you have three or four competing first responders, if you will, all skilled in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, fighting for—or trying to save the lives of either a victim or one of our brave firefighters, so I want to make sure you understand why I am concerned about that. I just want good, close coordination.

The current bill is an important and well-crafted step forward for USFA. I urge all of my colleagues on the Subcommittee to support the bill and support the upcoming manager's amendment. It makes

minor, technical changes to the underlying legislation. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman WU. I thank the gentleman, and I understand that Mr. Hall, the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, would like to make a statement at this point.

Mr. HALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will be brief. I just want to add to what the gentleman from Georgia said. You know, we have always heard it said that water and fire are wonderful friends but fearful enemies, and we have to appreciate both of them, water and fire, for the good they do, but we know that they bring devastation. And the tornado that hit over in Kentucky and Tennessee brought to light the work of the firefighters and the good work that they do.

I think it is a shame that it took 9/11 for the American people to really, truly appreciate firefighters and others that defend us and protect our property and our lives, so I think it is great to take our hat off to them, and express our thanks and our gratitude to them. I thank the Chairman for having this hearing, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his very appropriate statements. I am very pro-firefighters. I don't know how you can say enough about the good things they have done, but they are part of the treasures of this country, and it is good for this committee and for this Congress to honor them every chance we get. I yield back my time.

Chairman WU. Thank you, Mr. Hall, and as always, your comments are so pithy and also provide a launch point. You referred to the fearsome adversarial nature of fire and water, potentially, and I just want to add that what was ignored prior to our amendments that this committee worked—the Full Committee, six years ago, fire on water, that's marine fires, were not included in eligible training programs and research under the fire administration, and that's something we changed, this committee changed, several years ago, and that is an important change that we retain in the current legislation. Thank you for your comments, and thank you Dr. Gingrey and Mr. Mitchell.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered as read and open to amendment at any point, and that Members proceed with amendments in the order of the roster. Without objection, so ordered.

The first amendment on the roster is a manager's amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona. Mr. Mitchell, are you ready to proceed with your amendment?

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairman WU. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. Amendment to H.R. 4847 offered by Mr. Mitchell of Arizona.

Chairman WU. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading. Without objection, so ordered.

I recognize the gentleman from Arizona for five minutes to explain his amendment.

Mr. MITCHELL. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am introducing this amendment to H.R. 4847 to change references in the bill to "voluntary national consensus standards" to read "national voluntary consensus standards," the preferred term. It also makes a technical change to Subsection C of Section 4.

And I yield back.

Chairman WU. I think the gentleman. Is there further discussion of the amendment? If not, the vote occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye. Those opposed, say no. The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

Are there any other amendments? Hearing none, the vote is on the bill H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007,* as amended. All those in favor will say aye. All those opposed will say no. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

I now recognize Dr. Gingrey to make a motion.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Subcommittee favorably report H.R. 4847, as amended, to the Full Committee, and furthermore, I move that staff be instructed to prepare the Subcommittee legislative report and make necessary technical and conforming changes to the bill, as amended, in accordance with the recommendation of the Subcommittee.

Chairman WU. The question is on the motion to report the bill favorably. Those in favor of the motion will signify by saying aye. Opposed will say no. The ayes have it, and the bill is favorably reported.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table. Subcommittee Members may submit additional or Minority views on the measure.

I want to thank Members of the Committee and the Subcommittee for their attendance, and with our typical, across-the-aisle-workmanship is not the right term, but our work across the aisle, and our head-spinning efficiency. We have again moved multiple pieces of legislation and conclude this subcommittee markup. Thank you all very much.

[Whereupon, at 11:05 a.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

Appendix:

H.R. 4847, Section-by-Section Analysis, Amendment Roster

I

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4847

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL (for himself and Mr. GINGREY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

---

A BILL

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The loss of life due to fire has dropped significantly over the last 25 years in the United States. However, the United States still has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized

world. In 2005 the National Fire Protection Association reported 3,675 civilian fire deaths, 17,925 civilian fire injuries, and $10,672,000,000 in direct losses due to fire.

(2) Every year, over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. The United States Fire Administration should continue its leadership to help local fire agencies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

(3) Members of the fire service community should continue to work together to further the promotion of voluntary consensus standards that increase firefighter safety.

(4) The United States Fire Administration provides crucial support to the Nation's 30,300 fire departments through training, emergency incident data collection, fire awareness and education, and support of research and development activities for fire prevention, control, and suppression technologies.

(5) The collection of data on fire and other emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy makers and emergency responders to identify and develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving the United States Fire Administration's data collection capabilities is essential for accurately tracking

and responding to the magnitude and nature of the Nation's fire problem.

(6) The research and development performed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the United States Fire Administration, other government agencies, and non-governmental organizations on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance the capabilities of the Nation's fire service to suppress and prevent fires.

(7) The United States Fire Administration is one of the strongest voices representing the Nation's fire service within the Federal Government, and, as such, it should have a prominent place within the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking the "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which $2,520,000 shall be used to carry out section 8;

"(F) $72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which $2,595,600 shall be used to carry out section 8;

"(G) $74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which $2,673,468 shall be used to carry out section 8; and

"(H) $76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of which $2,753,672 shall be used to carry out section 8.".

SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking "terrorist-caused national catastrophes" and inserting "terrorist-caused and other national catastrophes";

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking "forest" and inserting "wildland";

(3) in subparagraph (M), by striking "response tactics and" and inserting "response, tactics, and";

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following new subparagraphs:

"(I) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a general area that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

"(J) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban interface;

"(K) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

"(L) advanced emergency medical services training;".

(b) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 7 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual report filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period that begins on the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007, and in every third annual report thereafter, the Adminis-

1 trator shall include information about changes made to the
2 National Fire Academy curriculum, including—
3 "(1) the basis for such changes, including a re-
4 view of the incorporation of lessons learned by emer-
5 gency response personnel after significant emergency
6 events and emergency preparedness exercises per-
7 formed under the National Exercise Program; and
8 "(2) the desired training outcome of all such
9 changes.".
10 (c) AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER
11 INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING
12 THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—Sec-
13 tion 7(f) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended to read
14 as follows:
15 "(f) ASSISTANCE.—
16 "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-
17 thorized to provide assistance to State and local fire
18 service training programs through grants, contracts,
19 or otherwise.
20 "(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CON-
21 TRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH
22 CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—
23 "(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is
24 authorized to enter into a contract with a na-
25 tionally recognized organization that has estab-

lished on-site training programs that comply with national consensus standards for fire service personnel to facilitate the delivery of the education and training programs outlined in subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service personnel.

"(B) RESTRICTIONS.—The Administrator shall not enter into a contract with such organization unless such organization—

"(i) operates a fire service training program accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization experienced with accrediting such training; and

"(ii) at the time the Administrator enters into the contract, provides training under such a program to a Federal agency under a cooperative agreement with such agency.

"(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 4 per centum of the amount authorized to be appropriated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of this Act.".

SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPGRADES.

(a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Section 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the Administrator shall use no more than an aggregate amount of $5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting database, including capital investment, contractor engagement, and user education.".

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking "assist State," and inserting "assist Federal, State,".

SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking "**RURAL ASSISTANCE**" in the
2 heading and inserting "**RURAL AND WILDLAND-**
3 **URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE**";
4 (2) by striking "The Administrator" and insert-
5 ing "(1) The Administrator"; and
6 (3) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:
8 "(2) The Administrator is authorized to assist the
9 Nation's fire services, directly or through contracts,
10 grants, or other forms of assistance, to sponsor and en-
11 courage research into approaches, techniques, systems,
12 and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in
13 the wildland-urban interface.".
14 (b) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Sec-
15 tion 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding
16 at the end the following new subsection:
17 "(h) RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year
18 after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire
19 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007, the Adminis-
20 trator, in collaboration with the relevant departments and
21 agencies of the Federal Government, shall make available
22 to the public information about all ongoing and planned
23 fire-related research funded by the Administration during
24 fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter, as well

as the results generated from such research, through a regularly updated Internet-based database.''.

SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

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

''SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

''The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire services of voluntary national consensus standards for firefighter health and safety, including such standards for firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by educating fire services about such standards, encouraging the adoption at all levels of government of such standards, and making recommendations on other ways in which the Federal government can promote the adoption of such standards by fire services.''.

SEC. 8. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) COORDINATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall utilize existing programs, data, information, and facilities already available in other Federal Government departments and agencies and, where appropriate, existing research organizations, centers, and universities.

"(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter related to programs of fire prevention and control with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.

"(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with programs related to emergency medical services provided by fire service-based systems with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.".

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Administration'' and inserting ''Administration, who is the Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency'';

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the ''and'' after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

''(6) 'hazardous materials' has the meaning given such term in section 5102(2) of title 49, United States Code;''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(10) 'wildland-urban interface' has the meaning given such term in section 101(16) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(16)).''.

○

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF
H.R. 4847, U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION OF 2007

Section 1. Short Title

"The United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007"

Section 2. Findings

Finds that the rate of life and property loss due to fire in the U.S. is still one of the highest in the industrialized world and that a significant number of firefighters die or suffer injury each year. Finds that USFA provides vital resources and leadership to the Nation's fire service and should have a prominent voice at the Department of Homeland Security.

Section 3. Authorization of Appropriations

Authorizes appropriations: $70,000,000 for FY 2009; $72,100,000 for FY 2010; $74,263,000 for FY 2011; and $76,490,890 for FY 2012. Each fiscal year, 3.6 percent of the funds authorized are authorized to be used to carry out fire technology research and related activities.

Section 4. National Fire Academy Training Program Modifications and Reports

Amends the list of training activities the National Fire Academy (NFA) is authorized to engage in by broadening authorized NFA training activities from terrorism specific to all-hazard; authorize training for response to large-scale fire events that involve multiple jurisdictions and stretch resources; authorize training for firefighting activities in the wildland-urban interface; authorize training for hazmat firefighting; and authorize training for advanced issues related to emergency medical services.

Requires the Administrator to include a description of any changes to the NFA curriculum in every third USFA yearly report to Congress.

Authorizes the Administrator to enter into contracts to provide on-site training through accredited or otherwise qualified organizations experienced with delivering such training.

Section 5. National Fire Incident Reporting System Upgrades

Authorizes the Administrator to use a maximum of $5 million dollars from the total appropriated over the years FY 2009 to FY 2011 to upgrade NFIRS.

Section 6. Fire Technology Assistance and Research Dissemination

Authorizes USFA to engage in research related to technologies, techniques, approaches, etc., to address fire suppression and prevention for fires in the wildland-urban interface.

Requires USFA to maintain a web database of these activities.

Section 7. Encouraging the Adoption of Standards for Firefighter Health and Safety

Directs the Administrator to promote the adoption of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety by educating the fire service, encouraging their adoption at all levels of government and making recommendations on other ways the Federal Government can encourage State, local, and federal fire agencies to comply with these standards.

Section 8. Coordination on Fire Service-Based Emergency Medical Services

Amends Section 21(e) of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974* by directing the Administrator to include fire service-based emergency medical services in his liaison and coordination activities across the Federal Government.

Section 9. Definitions

Defines wildland-urban interface and hazardous materials.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP
February 7, 2008

AMENDMENT ROSTER

H.R. 4847, United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007.

No.	Sponsor	Description	Results
1.	Mr. Mitchell	Manager's amendment makes a technical correction and clarifies that certain standards will be "national voluntary consensus standards."	Accepted by voice vote.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4847
OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL

Page 2, line 11, strike ''of voluntary'' and insert ''of national voluntary''.

Page 7, line 2, strike ''national consensus'' and insert ''national voluntary consensus''.

Page 7, line 13, strike ''and'' and insert ''or''.

XXII. PROCEEDINGS OF THE FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP ON H.R. 4847, THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:06 a.m., in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Bart Gordon [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Chairman GORDON. The Committee will come to order pursuant to notice the Committee on Science and Technology meets to consider the following measures: H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007;* H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act;* and H.R. 3916, *To provide for the next generation of border and maritime security technologies.*

I would like to welcome everyone to this morning's markup, the first Full Committee markup of 2008. Today we will consider the three bills reported out of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee with unanimous support. These three bills deal with public safety, improving the environment and border security, addressing some of the Nation's most pressing issues.

H.R. 4847, introduced by the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee, Representative Mitchell, and co-sponsored by the Subcommittee Ranking Member Gingrey, reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an important resource for our nation's firefighters, providing training, fire safety awareness for the public, data collection, and R&D on fire suppression and prevention research and technology.

This important bill will help ensure the continued success of the USFA in its mission to protect lives and property from fire.

We will also consider H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act,* introduced by Chairman Wu.

This bipartisan bill supports the development and use of green technology to protect our nation's water supply through innovative technologies and materials that can be integrated into transportation infrastructure such as roads and parking lots. By filtering stormwater and slowing runoff, green infrastructure mitigates pollution while saving money and energy.

The bill builds upon the good work going on now in the Department of Transportation to promote green infrastructure widespread use.

Finally, H.R. 3916, introduced by Ranking Member Hall, authorizes programs at the Department of Homeland Security to improve technology used to protect the Nation's borders and ports of entry.

Border Patrol agents are responsible for securing nearly 7,000 miles of land borders to the north and south, as well as 95,000 miles of shoreline. Technology can play a vital role in extending observational capabilities, helping Border Patrol agents locate suspects, and monitor the border more efficiently.

Mr. Hall's bill authorizes important programs to enhance the Border Patrol's ability to carry out its mission by supporting short- and long-term research priorities. It also ensures that new technologies will be useful to Border Patrol agents by mandating that DHS work to meet cost and training needs to end-users when developing these technologies.

I want to commend the T&I Subcommittee for bringing these issues to the Committee's attention. All three of these bills were developed via a regular order process of identifying the problem, holding a hearing, and then developing legislation.

I strongly support each of these bills and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee to advance this important legislation.

[The prepared statement of Chairman Gordon follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN BART GORDON

Full Committee Mark-Up:

- H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007;*
- H.R. 5161, the *Green Transportation Infrastructure Research and Technology Transfer Act;*
- H.R. 3916, *To provide for the next generation of border and maritime security technologies*

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H.R. 4847, introduced by the Vice Chair of the Subcommittee, Representative Mitchell, and co-sponsored by Subcommittee Ranking Member Gingrey, reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration. The U.S. Fire Administration is an important resource for our nation's firefighters, providing training, fire safety awareness for the public, data collection, and R&D on fire suppression and prevention research and technology. This important bill will help ensure the continued success of the USFA in its mission to protect lives and property from fire.

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Finally, H.R. 3916, introduced by Ranking Member Hall, authorizes programs at the Department of Homeland Security to improve the technology used to protect the Nation's borders and ports of entry. Border Patrol agents are responsible for securing nearly seven thousand miles of land borders to the North and South, as well as ninety-five thousand miles of shoreline. While our current corps of Border Patrol agents is doing a commendable job, their job is daunting. Technology can play a vital role in extending observational capabilities, helping Border Patrol agents locate suspects and monitor the border more effectively.

Mr. Hall's bill authorizes important programs to enhance the Border Patrol's ability to carry out its mission by supporting short- and long-term research priorities. It also ensures that new technologies will be useful to Border Patrol agents by man-

dating that DHS work to meet cost and training needs of end-users when developing these technologies.

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I strongly support each of these bills, and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee to advance this important legislation.

Chairman GORDON. I now recognize Mr. Hall to present opening remarks.

Mr. HALL. I thank you, Chairman Gordon. I am looking forward to a productive start for the Committee in this second session of the 110th Congress.

Today the Full Committee is considering three bills previously considered by the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. As you have said to begin with, we will be considering the reauthorization for the United States Fire Administration. USFA provides critical support to our nation's firefighters through training, through research and development, and logistical support. This is an extremely important agency in this committee's jurisdiction, and I would like to thank Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Gingrey for their hard work over the past few months on this matter.

Now, we will be considering Mr. Wu's Green Transportation Infrastructure Bill, which provides funding for the Department of Transportation's University Transportation Centers to examine and hopefully implement technologies that significantly reduce non-point source water pollution from our roadways and other paved surfaces.

Finally, H.R. 3916, a bill near and dear to me, focuses on the technology needs for the Border Patrol and the U.S. Coast Guard. I started writing this bill last year in response to a real need to develop and employ next generation technologies to help secure our border. I am pleased that many Members of the Committee on both sides of the aisle have co-sponsored this bill, and I would like to thank all of you for supporting my bill. I thank you, Chairman Gordon, specifically for your support and guidance.

These are all significant pieces of legislation that the Committee can be proud of advancing. I look forward to working with Chairman Gordon to insure that these bills continue to progress through their other committee referrals and onto the House Floor.

I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hall follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE RALPH M. HALL

Thank you Chairman Gordon, I'm looking forward to a productive start for the Committee in this second session of the 110th Congress. Today the Full Committee is considering three bills previously considered by the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. To begin we'll be considering the reauthorization for the United States Fire Administration (USFA). USFA provides critical support to our nation's firefighters through training, research and development, and logistical support. This is an extremely important agency in this committee's jurisdiction and I'd like to thank Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Gingrey for their hard work over the past few months on this matter.

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These are all significant pieces of legislation that the Committee can be proud of advancing. I look forward to working with Chairman Gordon to ensure that these bills continue to progress through their other Committee referrals and onto the House Floor.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Mr. Hall. You can be assured that we will all be working together to see these bills go to the Floor and then find a way to the Senate.

We will now consider H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007*. I yield Mr. Mitchell five minutes to describe his bill.

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that the Committee is marking up H.R. 4847 to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration. This bill was introduced by myself and the Ranking Member of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee, Dr. Phil Gingrey. The Fire Service provides critical assistance in protecting our communities in emergency events. From house fires to terrorist events to tornadoes, firefighters are generally the first on the scene and the last to leave.

However, fire continues to be a major problem in the U.S. Although fire-related deaths and injuries have been reduced significantly since the Fire Administration's creation in the early 1970s, over 3,000 Americans a year still die in fires and many more are injured. There are also $11 billion in annual direct property losses caused by fires.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an invaluable resource for the thousands of firefighters and emergency personnel around the country. Through training, educational materials, data collection, and other services, USFA provides tools and leadership to the fire service and the communities they serve.

H.R. 4847 reauthorizes this important agency for four years at the funding levels consistent for USFA to fully carry out its mission. It also addresses a number of priorities that members of the fire service community raised to the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee at a hearing last fall.

This legislation authorizes USFA to focus its resources on pressing challenges for today's first responders like fighting fires in the wildland-urban interface and responding to incidents involving hazardous materials. It directs USFA to improve the National Fire Incident Reporting System which provides important data on fire events to policy-makers at all levels of government.

This bill also addresses a very serious issue for the fire service, and that is firefighter health and safety. As we heard at the hearing last October, every year over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. USFA has shown strong leadership in promoting firefighter health and safety. H.R. 4847 directs the USFA Administrator to continue this leadership by educating local fire departments on national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety and encouraging communities to adopt these standards.

This legislation is the product of bipartisan collaboration and considerable input from the fire service community. Two weeks ago the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee unanimously re-

ported this bill favorably. The resources and leadership of the USFA are an essential part of the ability of the fire service to protect our cities, towns, and communities, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

And I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Mitchell follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE HARRY E. MITCHELL

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased that the Committee is marking up H.R. 4847, to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration. This bill was introduced by myself and the Ranking Member of the Technology an Innovation Subcommittee, Dr. Phil Gingrey.

The fire service provides critical assistance in protecting our communities in emergency events. From house fires to terrorist events to tornadoes, firefighters are general the first on the scene and the last to leave.

However, fire continues to be a major problem in the U.S. Although fire-related deaths and injuries have been reduced significantly since the Fire Administration's creation in the early 1970s, over 3,000 Americans a year still die in fires and many more are injured. There are also $11 billion in annual direct property losses cause by fires.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an invaluable resource for the thousands of firefighters and emergency personnel around the country. Through training, educational materials, data collection, and other services, USFA provides tools and leadership to the fire service and the communities they serve.

H.R. 4847 reauthorizes this important agency for four years at funding levels consistent for USFA to fully carry out its mission. It also addresses a number of priorities that members of the fire service community raised to the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee at a hearing last fall.

This legislation authorizes USFA to focus its resources on pressing challenges for today's first responders, like fighting fires in the wildland-urban interface and responding to incidents involving hazardous materials. It directs USFA to improve the National Fire Incident Reporting System, which provides important data on fire events to policy-makers at all levels of government.

This bill also addresses a very serious issue for the fire service—firefighter health and safety. As we heard at the hearing last October, every year over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. USFA has shown strong leadership in promoting firefighter health and safety. H.R. 4847 directs the USFA Administrator to continue this leadership by educating local fire departments on national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety and encouraging communities to adopt these standards.

This legislation is the product of bipartisan collaboration and considerable input from the fire service community. Two weeks ago, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee unanimously reported this bill favorably. The resources and leadership of USFA are an essential part of the ability of the fires service to protect our cities, towns, and communities, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Chairman GORDON. Mr. Hall is recognized for any remarks he might have.

Mr. HALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I am pleased, of course, the Committee held a hearing on this bill and took the time to consult with both sides as you did and as you have done. I yield the balance of my time to Dr. Gingrey to speak on the bill.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding his time, and I thank you as well.

As the lead Republican sponsor of the legislation, I would like to commend my colleague from Arizona, Mr. Mitchell, for bringing forward this legislation to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration. I am very pleased that we have worked in a bipartisan manner over the past few months to prepare the bill that we have before us today.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased that this bill has also gone through the regular order process. In October the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing on the reauthorization of USFA, and just three weeks ago H.R. 4847 was unanimously reported back to the Full Committee from the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee chaired by Chairman Wu.

The mission of USFA is the reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies through leadership, advocacy coordination and support. This organization provides vital assistance in the areas of training, fire education, and awareness and awards grants to a number of local fire departments across the country. These activities have made a substantial impact over the last 30 years as the gentleman from Arizona has just pointed out.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that, because of the work of the USFA, smoke alarms are now standard issue in residences across the country. Over a million firefighters have received advanced training and firefighter equipment and safety continues to improve. USFA should be proud of its record of achievement; however, it is also clear that improvements can still be made. In the last 10 years deaths related to fires have decreased by approximately 25 percent from nearly 5,000 in 1996, to 3,675 in 2006.

Although that decrease in fire-related deaths is commendable, the United States still has one of the highest death rates from fire in the industrialized world. Additionally, Mr. Chairman, despite the decreases in the number of fires, direct damage costs are increasing and have surpassed 10 billion, that is with a B, $10 billion per year. Put it another way, in an average year fire causes as much damage in the United States as do hurricanes.

The reauthorization of USFA will allow the agency to continue to improve our preparedness and reduce our vulnerability to fire. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, last year we saw wildfires that ravaged southern California and the need to develop a more cohesive way of combating these fires. I am happy to see this legislation specifically addresses the issue of fighting fires in an urban-wildland interface by implementing methods to better respond and prepare for fires that move from wildlands to suburban and our urban areas, our cities.

The current bill is important and well crafted to step forward for USFA. I want to urge all of my colleagues on the Committee to support the bill. Again, to thank our gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Mitchell, and with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gingrey follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PHIL GINGREY

As the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation, I would like to commend my colleague, Mr. Mitchell from Arizona, for bringing forward this legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration. I am very pleased that we have worked in a bipartisan manner over these past few months to prepare the bill we have before us today.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased that this bill is also gone through the regular order process. In October, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing on the reauthorization of USFA, and just three weeks ago, H.R. 4847 was unanimously reported back to the Full Committee from the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee.

The mission of USFA is to "reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support." This organization provides vital assistance in the areas of training, fire education and awareness, and awards grants to a number of local fire departments across the country. These activities have made a substantial impact over the last 30 years.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that because of the work of the USFA, smoke alarms are now standard issue in residences across the country; over a million firefighters have received advanced training; and firefighter equipment and safety continually improves.

USFA should be proud of its record of achievement. However, it's also clear that improvements can still be made. In the last ten years, deaths related to fires have decreased by approximately 25 percent, from nearly 5,000 in 1996 to 3,675 in 2006. Although that decrease in fire-related deaths is commendable, the United States still has one of the highest death rates from fire in the industrialized world.

Additionally Mr. Chairman, despite decreases in the numbers of fires, direct damage costs are increasing and have surpassed $10 billion per year. Put another way, in an average year, fires cause as much damage in the United States as hurricanes. The reauthorization of USFA will allow the agency to continue to improve our preparedness and reduce our vulnerability to fire.

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The current bill is an important and well-crafted step forward for USFA. I urge all of my colleagues on the Committee to support the bill. With that Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Dr. Gingrey. Does anyone else wish to be recognized for remarks?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GORDON. Mr. Rohrabacher is recognized.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Yes. Let me just congratulate the gentleman who has worked so hard on this bill, Mr. Mitchell, and let us note that in the past Curt Weldon, who is no longer here, spent an awful lot of time on this issue and actually laid the groundwork for the things that will actually bear fruit in the future and that we are building on right now. And so I just would like to make sure that we put Curt Weldon's name in the record when dealing with these issues. He spent so much time and effort as a Member of Congress on firefighting issues.

The second thing is just a note that Boeing Aircraft Company has recently developed new firefighting technology that will, at low tech rather than high tech, I might add, well, a combination of low tech and high tech, which makes any airplane with a cargo ramp in the back, C–130s, C–17s, et cetera, makes them capable of very effective water drops by—and this technology uses GPS system, and it is a great promise, and I would hope that as we move forward, the Firefighting Administration moves forward with this next five-year authorization, that that is one of the projects that they look at.

So with that said, thank you very much for your leadership, as well as the hard work of our two colleagues.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher. Anybody else wish to be recognized?

If not, let me just also thank, as Dr. Gingrey said, going through regular order I think that we developed a good bill here. You know, oftentimes we don't think much about our firefighters until we need them, and this is legislation that affects real people. My mother grew up way out in the country. I mean, way out in the

country, and when she was a child, their house burned, and literally it was just their lives and the clothes on their back is all that survived.

And even today when my mother hears a fire truck or a fire engine or a siren, she tells me that story, just like she had never, you know, told me before. It is just like Pavlo, and it is such, you know, it is such a traumatic experience for folks to go through that they will never get over it.

And so we are not going to stop all the fires, but hopefully this bill will help reduce some of those fires and help reduce some of the trauma that folks have gone through.

So with, if no one else to be, wishes to be recognized.

Mr. HALL. The gentleman yield?

Chairman GORDON. Yes, sir, Mr. Hall.

Mr. HALL. I imagine there is a lot of us in this room that are glad that she pulled a little old kid out of there, too, and led him out to give us guidance and bring fineness to a committee.

And as you said, it is kind of a shame that it took a 9/11 to make people really and truly appreciate firefighters and men and women that protect us day and night.

Yield back.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Mr. Hall.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill is considered as read and open to amendment at any point and that the Members proceed with the amendments in the order of the roster.

Without objection, so ordered.

The first amendment on the roster is the manager's amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Mitchell. Are you ready to proceed with your amendment?

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairman GORDON. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. Amendment number 020, amendment to H.R. 4847, offered by Mr. Mitchell of Arizona.

Chairman GORDON. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

Without objection, so ordered.

And I recognize the gentleman for five minutes to explain his amendment.

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am introducing this amendment to H.R. 4847 to make minor technical changes to the bill. The amendment also changes the provision in Section 4 authorizing the Administrator to deliver USFA training through qualified groups to qualified organizations that contract with other federal agencies to deliver training on their behalf to State and local emergency response personnel.

And I yield back.

Chairman GORDON. Is there further discussion on the amendment?

If not, the vote occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

The second amendment on the roster is offered by the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. Gingrey. Are you ready to proceed with your amendment?

Mr. GINGREY. I am, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I bring forward——

Chairman GORDON. Excuse me. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. Amendment number 014, amendment to H.R. 4847, offered by Mr. Gingrey of Georgia.

Chairman GORDON. If you would repeat the amendment number so we are sure we are in the right order here.

The CLERK. Amendment number 071, amendment to H.R. 4847, offered by Mr. Gingrey of Georgia.

Chairman GORDON. Right. Thank you very much, and I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

Without objection, so ordered.

The gentleman is recognized for five minutes to explain his amendment.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

I bring forward today a common sense, I think, amendment that will allow the Administrator to perform studies related to the management of emergency medical services.

All fire departments have a significant role in pre-hospital care, whether through in-house EMS or coordinating with third parties. Firefighters are called upon to extract victims from car crashes, building fires or collapses, or other emergencies. It is critical that patients receive consistent care under medical direction.

I do not expect the USFA to pursue studies into the medical care EMS patients should receive. This is best left to the medical community and other federal agencies such as NIH and NHTSA, the National Highways Transportation Safety Administration. But instead, Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply seeks to give the Administrator the authority to conduct studies into training, system design, and on-the-scene patient management while making sure to work with appropriate federal agencies and existing medical services in these local communities.

Basically, Mr. Chairman, to cut to the chase, to just be able to avoid the possibility of mass confusion at the scene of a fire where a lot of responders are there, and we want to just make sure that there is an appropriate hand-off so that everybody is doing what they are best trained to do.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gingrey follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PHIL GINGREY

Mr. Chairman, I bring forward today a common sense amendment that will allow the Administrator to perform studies related to the management of emergency medical services. All fire departments have a significant role in pre-hospital care whether through in-house EMS or coordinating with third-parties.

Firefighters are called upon to extract victims from car crashes, building fires or collapses, or other emergencies. It is critical that patients receive consistent care under medical direction. I do not expect USFA to pursue studies into the medical care EMS patients should receive; this is best left to the medical community and other federal agencies such as the NIH and National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Instead Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply seeks to give the Administrator the authority to conduct studies into training, system design, and on-scene patient management while making sure to work with appropriate federal agencies and existing medical services in these local communities.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Dr. Gingrey.

Is there further discussion on the amendment?

If no, the vote occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

The third amendment on the roster is offered by the gentlelady from California, Ms. Richardson. Are you ready to proceed with your amendment?

Ms. RICHARDSON. Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman, and I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairman GORDON. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The CLERK. Amendment number 014, amendment to H.R. 4847, offered by Ms. Richardson of California.

Chairman GORDON. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

Without objection, so ordered.

The gentlelady is recognized for five minutes to explain the amendment.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ranking Member Hall and fellow Members of the Science and Technology Committee, this amendment that I propose before you is very clear cut. The amendment calls for the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to consult and work with the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy in order to consolidate and integrate into the current Fire Academy curriculum, a course on incident command training for fire service personnel for fighting fires at ports, and also responding to emergencies at ports and in marine environments in general.

When we recall incidences such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the one thing we have learned is how vulnerable our nation's 126 shipping ports can be in their reaction to a disaster. In the aftermath of that storm, ports from Alabama to Texas were entirely shut down and many are still recovering, as in Port Forshun, a major supplier of gas and natural oil.

Also, I would point out to you that the key of having integrated training, we also learned from Hurricane Katrina and the aftermaths of 9/11, that oftentimes we are calling from personnel in various different states. So where one particular state may not need the expertise of responding to a port, they may be called upon to assist in another area.

Likewise we also know how valuable our nation's ports are in terms of the goods movement and their impact on our economy. In some areas ports can impact the Nation's economy to as high as a billion dollars a day that can be lost when they are shut down.

Therefore, it goes without saying how critical it is for our firefighters to have the ability to respond in a swift and efficient and coordinated manner. Every second in a response can make a difference between life or death and also the loss of valuable goods that we all depend upon in our daily lives.

Always being mindful of creating, of being mindful of not creating additional costs to our federal agencies and the limited budgets that we have, this amendment creates no new costs for the United States Fire Administration. In fact, this is not a new standalone course, but it allows for valuable lessons to be taught and

learned that will be implemented in already existing courses at the Fire Academy.

More importantly, this amendment grants the Administrator and the Superintendent the discretion to determine how they will integrate this course into already-existing courses. This amendment provides for two years to implement this course so that there will be ample time for the Fire Academy to develop and deliver to our brave men and women the necessary instruction on how to respond to an emergency, if necessary, at our nation's ports.

I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Bartlett, for his kind co-sponsorship and support, Mr. Rohrabacher's ongoing partnership as we work together in our neighborhoods, and I would also like to thank the Science and Technology staff, in particular, Meghan Housewright, for all of her hard work. And I would also be remiss not to acknowledge representatives from the United States Fire Administration who worked with us on this effort.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your support of this amendment, and it is straightforward as I have laid out. It is essential for the readiness of our men and women that we have an opportunity to learn from lessons across this country. It is vital that we provide them with that support and we protect our nation's economy.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Richardson follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE LAURA RICHARDSON

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Hall and fellow Members of the Science and Technology Committee, the amendment proposed before you is clear cut. The amendment calls on the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, to consult and work with the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, in order to consolidate and integrate into the current Fire Academy curriculum a course on incident command training for fire service personnel for fighting fires at ports, and responding to emergencies at ports and marine environments in general. When we recall incidents such as Hurricane Katrina, the one thing that we have learned is how vulnerable our nation's 126 shipping ports can be in reaction to a disaster. In the aftermath of that storm, ports from Alabama to Texas were entirely shut down and many are still trying to recover, like Port Fourchon, a major supplier of gas and natural oil. Likewise, we all know how valuable our nation's ports are to the movement of goods, and thus, the general health of our economy. In some areas the shutdown of ports can impact the national economy to as high as $1 billion dollars a day. Therefore it goes without saying how crucial it is for our firefighters to have the ability to respond in a swift, efficient, and coordinated manner. Every second in response can make the difference between life or death, and the lost of valuable goods that we all depend on upon in our daily lives.

Always mindful of creating additional cost for any federal agency working with a limited budget, this amendment creates no new cost for the United States Fire Administration. This is not a new stand alone course, but the valuable lessons to be taught and learned will be implemented into the already existing courses at the Fire Academy. More importantly, this amendment grants the Administrator and the Superintendent the discretion to determine how they will integrate this course into already existing courses. This amendment provides two years to implement this course so there will be ample time for the Fire Academy to develop and deliver to our brave men and women the necessary instruction on how to respond to an emergency, if necessary, at our nation's ports. I want to thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Bartlett for his co-sponsorship support, and Mr. Rohrabacher's for his partnership on all matters related to the port. Mr. Rohrabacher was a co-sponsor of my resolution honoring the port of Los Angeles, and I look forward to working with him on future legislation. I would like to thank the Science and Technology staff, in particular Meghan Housewright for all of her hard-work, and I would be remiss if I did not thank Chairman Gordon for his support of my amend-

ment. This amendment is straightforward, it is essential to our readiness and ability to respond to man made and natural disasters, it is vital to the steady movement of goods, and I encourage my colleagues to support it. Thank you Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Ms. Richardson. I know you had a particular interest and passion in this bill, and your input helped make it a better bill. Thank you not only for the amendment but also the earlier work on the core bill.

Is there further discussion on the amendment?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GORDON. Mr. Rohrabacher is recognized.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I would like to commend my colleague, Ms. Richardson, for the job that she has done on this amendment. It obviously is a really an important amendment and covering an issue of great significance.

Fires at our port areas that can be not only threatening to life, but are tremendously threatening to our economy. An out-of-control fire at a port can cripple an economy. We have had slowdowns and problems at our ports that cost billions of dollars to the American economy, and this low-cost preventative measure that she is offering could yield great results for us in the future, and I commend her for her hard work on this amendment, and of course, totally support it.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher.

Any further discussion?

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GORDON. Mr. Bartlett is recognized.

Mr. BARTLETT. I am honored to have the National Fire Academy in my district, and I go there a couple of times each year for very impressive ceremonies, and I am very pleased that our committee has a large role to play in support of this very important institution. Thank you.

Chairman GORDON. Is there further discussion?

Dr. Gingrey is recognized.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, thank you, and I, too, want to commend the gentlelady from California who I know has the port of Long Beach in her district, and there are many other ports.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. GINGREY. I will be glad to yield to my friend.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. You are close. It is my district, but we share it.

Mr. GINGREY. That is right. That is right. You, I think you, Mr. Rohrabacher, you serve outside some of those ports but I am glad to be supportive of our colleagues from California. And, indeed, it is not just her district or his district that is so important in regard to ports. There are 300 or more ports across the country and including two in my great State of Georgia, the port of Savannah and the port of Brunswick, and I am sure the Georgia Ports Authority would be supportive of this amendment that the gentlewoman is bringing forward.

But I do have some concerns. I worry that the current language of the amendment may shift scarce resources from higher-priority needs in order to fund course development in this particular area.

Mr. Chairman, the USFA is consistently funding, as we all know, below the authorized levels, and I believe the Committee should resist the urge to micro-manage these limited funds unless absolutely essential. I am not saying that this is not absolutely essential, by the way, but additionally, I think that before implementing this amendment, hopefully the USFA needs to have a more complete understanding of the needs and current training protocols of marine firefighting. I mean, it is very possible that we are already doing a lot of that in the current curriculum.

USFA should have the discretion, I think, to utilize their limited resources to best serve the needs of the 1.3 million firefighters across this country.

For example, Mr. Chairman, one specific need outlined in this legislation is the necessity for better urban-wildland interface firefighting. So I hope that the USFA will have the discretion to implement this amendment, Ms. Richardson's amendment, as it sees fit to best address this issue within the context of its greater role supporting the most pressing needs of firefighters across the country.

And Mr. Chairman, as I say, I am supportive of the gentlewoman's amendment. I know she has worked very hard, and it is extremely important, and I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gingrey follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PHIL GINGREY

Mr. Chairman, while I am sympathetic to my colleague from California's real concern about the difficulty in fighting fires in commercial ports and the potential for catastrophic economic and environmental consequences, I worry that the current language of the amendment may shift scarce resources from higher priority needs in order to fund course development in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the USFA is consistently funded below the authorized level and I believe the Committee should resist the urge to micro-manage the limited funds available.

Additionally, I think that before implementing this amendment, the USFA needs to have a more complete understanding of the needs and current training protocols of marine firefighting. USFA should have the discretion to utilize their limited resources to best serve the needs of the 1.3 million firefighters across our nation.

For example Mr. Chairman, one specific need outlined in this legislation is the necessity for better urban-wildland interface firefighting.

I hope that the USFA will have the discretion to implement this amendment as it sees fit to best address this issue within the context of its greater role supporting the most pressing needs of firefighters across the country.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Mr. Gingrey, and obviously your concerns will be part of the record.

Is there further discussion?

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, may I respond very briefly?

Chairman GORDON. The gentlelady from California is recognized, Ms. Richardson.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Gingrey, for expressing your concerns, and I am happy that you shared them because it gave me another opportunity to make sure we are very clear.

First of all, we met with the USFA several times and had the discussions, and it is my understanding they are in support of this amendment as proposed. We did have other options, but for several reasons why, I think it addressed your concerns.

Number one, the USFA is given the full discretion in conjunction with the Superintendent. Number two, they do have two years to implement this. They have plenty of time to implement it into the curriculum with the normal printing, et cetera, not to increase any costs. Further, it is very clear according to the amendment that this is to be incorporated into existing courses. So there is no additional courses or time or anything of that matter.

So, thank you for your support of this amendment, and I look forward to working with you on its implementation.

Chairman GORDON. It is my understanding from all involved that Ms. Richardson spent a great deal of time massaging this issue and trying to get it right in consultation with all those involved, and that the final product is, I would say, a hybrid improvement of the way things started, and that is why you have regular order.

Is there further discussion?

If no, the vote occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye. Opposed, no. The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

Are there other amendments?

If no, then the vote occurs on the bill, H.R. 4847, as amended. All those in favor will say aye. Opposed, no. And in the opinion of the Chair the ayes have it.

I now recognize Mr. Baird to offer a motion.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee favorably report H.R. 4847, as amended, to the House with the recommendation that the bill do pass. Furthermore, I move that the staff be instructed to prepare the legislative report and make necessary technical and conforming changes, and that the Chairman take all necessary steps to bring the bill before the House for consideration.

Chairman GORDON. The question is on the motion to report the bill favorably. Those in favor of the motion will signify by saying aye. Opposed, no. The ayes have it. The bill is favorably reported.

Without objection, the motion to table is reconsidered and laid upon the table. Members will have two subsequent calendar days in which to submit supplemental, Minority, or additional views on the measure, ending Monday, March the 3rd, at 9:00 a.m.

I move pursuant to Clause 1 of Rule 22 of the Rules of the House of Representatives that the Committee authorize the Chairman to offer such motions as may be necessary in the House to adopt and pass H.R. 4847, the *United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007,* as amended.

Without objection, so ordered.

Let me thank the Members for coming back from the last vote. This was an important bill, and I appreciate your attendance. I want to thank the staff for the hard work that they have put in and the good work on doing this. I think we did a good day's work today, and I thank everyone.

The meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:32 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

Appendix:

SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP REPORT, H.R. 4847 AS AMENDED,
AMENDMENT ROSTER

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP
FEBRUARY 7, 2008

H.R. 4847, THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

I. Purpose

The purpose of this bill is to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and to authorize USFA's activities in training, fire education and awareness, data collection, research, and standards development and promotion.

II. Background and Need for Legislation

USFA is housed within the Federal Emergency Management Administration at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It was created by the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974* (P.L. 93–498). The agency's mission is to reduce the incidents of fire and fire-related deaths, injuries, and property damage in the U.S., and to better prepare the Nation's fire service as the primary local emergency responders. To accomplish its mission, USFA engages in the following core activities: public fire education and awareness programs; firefighter and emergency responder training delivery and curriculum development; fire-focused applied research and technology development; data collection through the National Fire Data Center; and logistical and programmatic support for DHS grants to firefighters under the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grants program.

USFA's stated goal, upon its establishment in 1974, was to reduce fire-related fatalities in the Nation by half—bringing the number to approximately six thousand per year within a generation. The agency met this goal by 1988, and these numbers continue to decline. However, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) the U.S. still has one of the highest rates of death, injury, and property loss due to fire among all industrialized nations. NFPA reports that in 2006 there were 3,245 civilian fire deaths, 16,400 fire injuries, and an estimated $11.307 billion in direct property losses due to fire. They estimate that the fire fatality rate is 14.8 per million. USFA also reports that every year, an average of 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. The agency works to reduce these statistics, as well as help firefighters prepare for the growing number of hazards and emergencies calling for firefighter response.

III. Subcommittee Actions

The Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation heard testimony in the 110th Congress relevant to the programs authorized in H.R. 4847 at a hearing held on October 2, 2007. During this hearing, the Subcommittee heard testimony from the Director of the U.S. Fire Administration, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Building and Fire Research Laboratory, and four outside witnesses representing different sectors of the Nation's fire service community.

On December 19 2007, Representative Harry Mitchell, Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation of the Committee on Science and Technology, for himself and Representative Phil Gingrey, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, introduced H.R. 4847, the *U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007,* a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the U.S. Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

The Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation met to consider H.R. 4847 on Thursday, February 15, 2008 and considered the following amendment to the bill:

Mr. Mitchell offered a manager's amendment to change references in the bill to "voluntary national consensus standards" to "national voluntary consensus standards" which is the preferred term, and to make a technical change to subsection (c) of section 4.

Mr. Gingrey moved that the Subcommittee favorably report the bill, H.R. 4847, as amended, to the Full Committee. The motion was agreed to by a voice vote.

IV. Summary of Major Provisions of the Bill

H.R. 4847 authorizes $292 million for the U.S. Fire Administration for fiscal years 2009–2012. It also authorizes the National Fire Academy to engage in training activities related to firefighting in the wildland-urban interface; multiple, large-scale fires that cross jurisdictions and stretch resources; hazardous material incidents; advanced topics in emergency medical services. The bill would allow the Administrator to enter into contracts with qualified, third-party organizations to deliver USFA training to State and local entities, and the bill requires USFA, in every third annual report to Congress, to detail any changes made to the Fire Academy curriculum the curriculum, as well as the rational and objectives for those changes. H.R. 4847 authorizes the Administrator to spend up to $5 million over three years to update and improve the National Fire Incident Reporting System to allow real-time, web-based reporting, that will provide to users in a more timely and efficient manner. The bill requires USFA to keep an updated website of past and present research projects, and requires the Administrator to promote the adoption of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety among local departments and to educate local departments about these standards. Lastly, H.R. 4847 requires the Administrator to include emergency medical services in his liaison and coordination activities across the Federal Government.

V. Section-by-Section Analysis of the Bill, as reported by the Subcommittee

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE

"The United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007"

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

Finds that the rate of life and property loss due to fire in the U.S. is still one of the highest in the industrialized world and that a significant number of firefighters die or suffer injury each year. Finds that USFA provides vital resources and leadership to the Nation's fire service and should have a prominent voice at the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Authorizes appropriations: $70,000,000 for FY 2009; $72,100,000 for FY 2010; $74,263,000 for FY 2011; and $76,490,890 for FY 2012. Each fiscal year, 3.6 percent of the funds authorized are authorized to be used to carry out fire technology research and related activities.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS

Amends the list of training activities the National Fire Academy (NFA) is authorized to engage in by broadening authorized NFA training activities from terrorism specific to all-hazard; authorize training for response to large-scale fire events that involve multiple jurisdictions and stretch resources; authorize training for firefighting activities in the wildland-urban interface; authorize training for hazmat firefighting; and authorize training for advanced issues related to emergency medical services.

Requires the Administrator to include a description of any changes to the NFA curriculum in every third USFA yearly report to Congress.

Authorizes the Administrator to enter into contracts to provide on-site training through accredited or otherwise qualified organizations experienced with delivering such training.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Authorizes the Administrator to use a maximum of $5 million dollars from the total appropriated over the years FY 2009 to FY 2011 to upgrade NFIRS.

SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

Authorizes USFA to engage in research related to technologies, techniques, approaches, etc., to address fire suppression and prevention for fires in the wildland-urban interface.

Requires USFA to maintain a web database of these activities.

SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY

Directs the Administrator to promote the adoption of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety by educating the fire service, en-

couraging their adoption at all levels of government and making recommendations on other ways the Federal Government can encourage State, local, and federal fire agencies to comply with these standards.

SEC. 8. COORDINATION ON FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Amends Section 21(e) of the *Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974* by directing the Administrator to include fire service-based emergency medical services in his liaison and coordination activities across the Federal Government.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS

Defines wildland-urban interface and hazardous materials.

H.R. 4847, AS AMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON FEBRUARY 7, 2008

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the "United States Fire
3 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008".

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The loss of life due to fire has dropped sig-
7 nificantly over the last 25 years in the United
8 States. However, the United States still has one of
9 the highest fire death rates in the industrialized
10 world. In 2005 the National Fire Protection Asso-
11 ciation reported 3,675 civilian fire deaths, 17,925 ci-
12 vilian fire injuries, and $10,672,000,000 in direct
13 losses due to fire.

14 (2) Every year, over 100 firefighters die in the
15 line of duty. The United States Fire Administration
16 should continue its leadership to help local fire agen-
17 cies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

18 (3) Members of the fire service community
19 should continue to work together to further the pro-

1 motion of national voluntary consensus standards
2 that increase firefighter safety.
3 (4) The United States Fire Administration pro-
4 vides crucial support to the Nation's 30,300 fire de-
5 partments through training, emergency incident data
6 collection, fire awareness and education, and support
7 of research and development activities for fire pre-
8 vention, control, and suppression technologies.
9 (5) The collection of data on fire and other
10 emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy
11 makers and emergency responders to identify and
12 develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving
13 the United States Fire Administration's data collec-
14 tion capabilities is essential for accurately tracking
15 and responding to the magnitude and nature of the
16 Nation's fire problem.
17 (6) The research and development performed by
18 the National Institute of Standards and Technology,
19 the United States Fire Administration, other govern-
20 ment agencies, and non-governmental organizations
21 on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance
22 the capabilities of the Nation's fire service to sup-
23 press and prevent fires.
24 (7) The United States Fire Administration is
25 one of the strongest voices representing the Nation's

fire service within the Federal Government, and, as such, it should have a prominent place within the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking the "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of which $2,520,000 shall be used to carry out section 8;

"(F) $72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of which $2,595,600 shall be used to carry out section 8;

"(G) $74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of which $2,673,468 shall be used to carry out section 8; and

"(H) $76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of which $2,753,672 shall be used to carry out section 8.".

SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''terrorist-caused national catastrophes'' and inserting ''terrorist-caused and other national catastrophes'';

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking ''forest'' and inserting ''wildland'';

(3) in subparagraph (M), by striking ''response tactics and'' and inserting ''response, tactics, and'';

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following new subparagraphs:

''(I) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a general area that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

''(J) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban interface;

''(K) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

1 "(L) advanced emergency medical services
2 training;".
3 (b) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 7 of such Act (15
4 U.S.C. 2206) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new subsection:
6 "(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual re-
7 port filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline
8 for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period
9 that begins on the date of the enactment of the United
10 States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008,
11 and in every third annual report thereafter, the Admini-
12 strator shall include information about changes made to the
13 National Fire Academy curriculum, including—
14 "(1) the basis for such changes, including a re-
15 view of the incorporation of lessons learned by emer-
16 gency response personnel after significant emergency
17 events and emergency preparedness exercises per-
18 formed under the National Exercise Program; and
19 "(2) the desired training outcome of all such
20 changes.".
21 (c) AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER
22 INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING
23 THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—Sec-
24 tion 7(f) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended to read
25 as follows:

1 "(f) ASSISTANCE.—

2 "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-
3 thorized to provide assistance to State and local fire
4 service training programs through grants, contracts,
5 or otherwise.

6 "(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CON-
7 TRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH
8 CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—

9 "(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is
10 authorized to enter into a contract with a na-
11 tionally recognized organization that has estab-
12 lished on-site training programs that comply
13 with national voluntary consensus standards for
14 fire service personnel to facilitate the delivery of
15 the education and training programs outlined in
16 subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service per-
17 sonnel.

18 "(B) RESTRICTIONS.—The Administrator
19 shall not enter into a contract with such organi-
20 zation unless such organization—

21 "(i) operates a fire service training
22 program accredited by a nationally recog-
23 nized accreditation organization experi-
24 enced with accrediting such training; or

"(ii) at the time the Administrator enters into the contract, provides training under such a program to a Federal agency under a cooperative agreement with such agency.

"(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 4 per centum of the amount authorized to be appropriated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of this Act.".

SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPGRADES.

(a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Section 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the Administrator shall use no more than an aggregate amount of $5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting

1 database, including capital investment, contractor engage-
2 ment, and user education.''.
3 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of
4 such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking
5 ''assist State,'' and inserting ''assist Federal, State,''.

6 **SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH**
7 **DISSEMINATION.**

8 (a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PRE-
9 VENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTER-
10 FACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
11 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended—
12 (1) by striking ''RURAL ASSISTANCE'' in the
13 heading and inserting ''RURAL AND WILDLAND-
14 URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE'';
15 (2) by striking ''The Administrator'' and insert-
16 ing ''(1) The Administrator''; and
17 (3) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:
19 ''(2) The Administrator is authorized to assist the
20 Nation's fire services, directly or through contracts,
21 grants, or other forms of assistance, to sponsor and en-
22 courage research into approaches, techniques, systems,
23 and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in
24 the wildland-urban interface.''.

1 (b) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Sec-
2 tion 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding
3 at the end the following new subsection:
4 ''(h) RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year
5 after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire
6 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, the Adminis-
7 trator, in collaboration with the relevant departments and
8 agencies of the Federal Government, shall make available
9 to the public information about all ongoing and planned
10 fire-related research funded by the Administration during
11 fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter, as well
12 as the results generated from such research, through a
13 regularly updated Internet-based database.''.

14 **SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
15 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

16 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
17 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
18 the following new section:

19 **''SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
20 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

21 ''The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire
22 services of national voluntary consensus standards for fire-
23 fighter health and safety, including such standards for
24 firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by
25 educating fire services about such standards, encouraging

1 the adoption at all levels of government of such standards,
2 and making recommendations on other ways in which the
3 Federal government can promote the adoption of such
4 standards by fire services.''.

5 **SEC. 8. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE SERVICE-BASED**
6 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

7 Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
8 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e)) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 ''(e) COORDINATION.—

11 ''(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable,
12 the Administrator shall utilize existing programs,
13 data, information, and facilities already available in
14 other Federal Government departments and agencies
15 and, where appropriate, existing research organiza-
16 tions, centers, and universities.

17 ''(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND
18 CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall pro-
19 vide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to
20 assure coordination of the Administrator's activities
21 with State and local government agencies, depart-
22 ments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter
23 related to programs of fire prevention and control
24 with private and other Federal organizations and of-
25 fices so concerned.

1 "(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED
2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The
3 Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate
4 organizational level to assure coordination of the Ad-
5 ministrator's activities with State and local govern-
6 ment agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices con-
7 cerned with programs related to emergency medical
8 services provided by fire service-based systems with
9 private and other Federal organizations and offices
10 so concerned.".

11 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

12 Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control
13 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking "Administra-
15 tion" and inserting "Administration, who is the As-
16 sistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency
17 Management Agency";

18 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the "and"
19 after the semicolon;

20 (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
21 the end and inserting "; and";

22 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and
23 (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

24 (5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
25 lowing new paragraph:

1 "(6) 'hazardous materials' has the meaning
2 given such term in section 5102(2) of title 49,
3 United States Code;"; and
4 (6) by adding at the end the following new
5 paragraph:
6 "(10) 'wildland-urban interface' has the mean-
7 ing given such term in section 101(16) of the
8 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
9 6511(16)).".

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP
FEBRUARY 27, 2007

AMENDMENT ROSTER

H.R. 4847, United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007

No.	Sponsor	Description	Results
1	Mr. Mitchell	Manager's amendment makes technical changes to Section 4, Subsection (f), the section of the bill that authorizes the Administrator to enter into contracts with third-party organizations to deliver USFA training. The amendment changes the reference to "a nationally recognized organization" to "one or more nationally recognized organizations". The amendment also broadens the types of organizations that the Administrator is permitted to enter into contract with to include those organizations, at the time of contracting, that offer training under a cooperative agreement with a federal agency.	Agreed to by voice vote.
2	Mr. Gingrey	Amends Section 8 by adding a subsection that authorizes the Administrator to conduct, either directly or through contracts, studies of the operation and management aspects of fire service-based emergency medical services (EMS), as well as the coordination between EMS and the fire service. Such studies may include the optimum protocols for on-scene care, the allocation of resources, and the training requirements for fire-service based EMS.	Agreed to by voice vote.
3	Ms. Richardson	Amends Section 4 to require the U.S. Fire Administrator, working in consultation with the National Fire Academy Superintendent, to consolidate and integrate into the current Fire Academy curriculum a course on incident command training for fire service personal for fighting fires at ports and in marine environments.	Agreed to by voice vote.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4847
OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL

Page 2, line 11, strike ''of voluntary'' and insert ''of national voluntary''.

Page 7, line 2, strike ''national consensus'' and insert ''national voluntary consensus''.

Page 7, line 13, strike ''and'' and insert ''or''.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4847
OFFERED BY MR. GINGREY

Page 10, line 7, strike "Section 21(e)" and insert "(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(e)"; and on page 11, after line 10, insert the following new subsection:

1 (b) FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL
2 SERVICES BEST PRACTICES.—Section 8(c) of such Act
3 (15 U.S.C. 2207(c)) is amended—
4 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
5 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5); and
6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
7 lowing new paragraph:
8 "(2) The Administrator is authorized to con-
9 duct, directly or through contracts or grants, studies
10 of the operations and management aspects of fire
11 service-based emergency medical services and coordi-
12 nation between emergency medical services and fire
13 services. Such studies may include the optimum pro-
14 tocols for on-scene care, the allocation of resources,
15 and the training requirements for fire service-based
16 emergency medical services.".

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4847

OFFERED BY MS. RICHARDSON

Page 7, after line 11, insert the following:

1 (d) INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING COURSE FOR
2 FIRES AT PORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years
3 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
4 of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation
5 with the Superintendent of the National Academy for Fire
6 Prevention and Control, shall consolidate and integrate
7 into the current Academy curriculum a course on incident
8 command training for fire service personnel for fighting
9 fires at United States ports and in marine environments,
10 including fires on the water and aboard vessels.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
CHAIRMAN

PETER T. KING, NEW YORK
RANKING MEMBER

One Hundred Tenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2008

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
Committee on Science and Technology
2320 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon:

I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007. Though H.R. 4847 implicates the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security, I will not seek a sequential referral of this bill because I share your interest in assuring that this legislation is brought to the House floor in an expeditious manner. Agreeing to waive consideration of the bill should not be construed as the Committee on Homeland Security waiving its jurisdiction.

Further, the Committee on Homeland Security while forgoing a sequential referral of this bill, reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this or similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Homeland Security for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 4847 or similar legislation.

In addition, I ask that you please include this letter and a copy of your response acknowledging the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdictional interest in this bill and indicating your support of our agreement in the committee report on H.R. 4847 and into the *Congressional Record* during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
CHAIRMAN

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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March 28, 2008

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the consideration of H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008. I appreciate your willingness to forgo a sequential referral on this measure so that it may move expeditiously to the Floor.

While the Committee on Science and Technology has been given sole jurisdiction over every US Fire Administration (USFA) bill since the USFA's creation, we recognize that the Committee on Homeland Security has an interest in H.R. 4847 based on your jurisdiction over functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to research and development (House Rule X(1)(i)(3)(E)). Research, development, and demonstration programs and projects at the Department of Homeland Security remain within the shared jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology due to our jurisdiction over "scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects, therefor" (House Rule X(1)(o)(14)). I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Homeland Security does not waive its jurisdiction. In addition, I will support any request you may make to have conferees to a conference committee on those sections of H.R. 4847, or any similar legislation.

The exchange of letters between our two committees will be inserted in the legislative report on H.R. 4847 and the *Congressional Record* during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bart

Bart Gordon
Chairman

cc: The Honorable John V. Sullivan
The Honorable Ralph M. Hall

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