



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS

November 13, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama  
Office of the President-Elect

Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear President-Elect Obama:

National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), which has as its members the nation's senior fire safety officials for our 50 United States and the District of Columbia, congratulates you on your election victory. This letter is to inform you that our Association stands ready to work with you and your Administration in addressing the challenges we all face in protecting citizens and first responders from the devastating effects of fires across the United States.

NASFM's mission is to protect life, property and the environment from fire and related hazards. State Fire Marshals' responsibilities vary from state to state, but they tend to be responsible for the safety code adoption and enforcement, fire and arson investigation, fire incident data reporting and analysis, public education and advising Governors and State Legislatures on fire protection and Homeland Security issues. Some State Fire Marshals are responsible for fire fighter training, hazardous materials incident responses, wildland fires and the regulation of natural gas and other pipelines.

We concur with the concepts you have put forward that the economy can be stimulated by moving to new sustainable technologies. Our members will work with all stakeholders to ensure that this critical transition is consistent with state and local public safety laws and regulations.

We know that training and education make all the difference. In NASFM's ongoing work with the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Energy, we are already addressing issues related to the safety of our communities and emergency responders as we transition to alternative fuels, such as liquefied natural gas in our nation's pipelines, ethanol in dispensers designed for gasoline, and hydrogen fueling stations. In keeping with your message of inclusiveness, NASFM is committed to the "enterprise" approach of bringing together experts from industry, government and academia to solve big problems, motivated by their commitment to public safety.



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NASFM also will continue to support the missions of the federal government agencies that have a special focus on fire issues, such as the U.S. Fire Administration and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. We feel very strongly that the public servants appointed to lead these agencies be oriented to public safety and to preventing fire and burn deaths and injuries of civilians and emergency responders alike. We would be honored to recommend and advise on suitable candidates for these agencies that are entrusted with these responsibilities.

Again, congratulations, and please do not hesitate to call on NASFM as you begin this journey to make the United States of America the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Shuman  
President and  
Georgia State Fire Marshal

David B. Foreman  
Vice President and  
Illinois State Fire Marshal

cc: Vice President-Elect Joe Biden  
Congressman Rahm Emanuel  
NASFM members