

# Resolution No. 218-2021

By Council Member J. Jones

## AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Calling upon the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 6422 to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.

WHEREAS, there is a widely acknowledged shortfall in infrastructure spending in the nation: the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) stated in its 2021 report card that the United States received a grade of C- regarding the current state of infrastructure and that six trillion dollars would be needed to restore the nation's infrastructure to a state of good repair; over two and a half trillion dollars is currently not funded and the remainder is inadequately funded; moreover, new 21<sup>st</sup> Century projects are also unfunded; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure crisis in Ohio and Cleveland mirrors that of the country: on February 20, 2021, the Ohio chapter of the ASCE released its report card for 2021 and graded the state C-: roads, transit and levees were graded D and bridges C+; 17% of the public roads were graded in poor condition, and 1,457 bridges were graded structurally deficient; traffic congestion costs Ohio motorists an estimated \$4.7 billion each year in lost time and wasted fuel; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the ASCE report card gave Northeast Ohio (NEO) a D+: wastewater was graded D+ because much of the region's wastewater infrastructure is aging and approximately 25 percent of the sewer pipes in NEO are over 80 years old, while 39% of NEO's septic systems are considered failing; and

WHEREAS, NEO energy was graded D in the report card because one-third of energy consumed in the region is generated outside the region and NEO's aging distribution networks built prior to the 1960s require continuous care and improvement; and

WHEREAS, school buildings were also graded D in the report card: the Cleveland Section of the ASCE reported nearly half of the schools in the region have not undergone significant renovations over the past 40 years and, although 91 % of school buildings are designated to serve as emergency shelters, most do not have backup power systems and are not constructed to withstand natural disasters common to Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Congress has introduced HR 6422, which creates a \$4 trillion National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) that is authorized to invest in infrastructure projects only; the NIB requires no new federal spending and no new taxes; it would be capitalized by repurposing existing Treasury debt, it will create twenty-five million new jobs which will pay Davis-Bacon wages, mandate project labor agreements, and buy American policies; the NIB will ensure a substantial flow of contracts to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and also provide large-scale minority hiring; and

WHEREAS, a new National Infrastructure Bank could partner with Cleveland and Ohio to supply the needed financing to fix the water systems, roads, bridges, and schools and is mandated to build infrastructure and create jobs in both rural and urban communities and all communities of color, to build needed affordable housing units and put broadband everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the NIB is modeled on previous national banks which helped build much of the United States' infrastructure under Presidents George Washington, James Madison, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt; the last such bank helped bring the U.S. out of the Depression and win WWII; experts say the NIB will grow the economy by 4-5% per year as did its predecessors; and

WHEREAS, 20 state legislatures have introduced or passed resolutions of support of H.R. 6422, as have county and city councils, including: Toledo City Council, Akron City Council, Lucas County Board of County Commissioners, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments; the Ohio House of Representatives introduced a bipartisan resolution in February; and

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WHEREAS, H.R. 6422 is endorsed by trade unions including: Akron Bricklayers Local 7, Western Reserve Building and Construction Trades Council, CWA Local 4319, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 50, IBEW Local 245; national endorsements include: the Public Banking Institute, the National Congress of Black Women, the National Association of Counties, the US High Speed Rail Association, the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers, the American Sustainable Business Council, the National Association of Minority Contractors, the National Federation of Federal Employees; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council calls upon the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 6422 to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Ohio Congressional delegation, Governor Mike DeWine and President Joe Biden.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

JJ:rns  
3/29/2021

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READ FIRST TIME on MARCH 29, 2021  
and referred to DIRECTOR of Law:  
COMMITTEE on Finance

REPORTS

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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REPORT  
after second Reading

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY  
COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE

FILED WITH COMMITTEE