



EAST

Resolution in Support of National Infrastructure Bank

Whereas, the Council of State Governments-East recognizes that transportation infrastructure is vital to economic development, job creation; mobility, and quality of life; and

Whereas the safe and efficient transport of people, goods and services depends on a safe, reliable, and environmentally sound surface transportation system; and

Whereas the long-term enhanced investment in the infrastructure is clearly demonstrated by the ever-increasing number of deficient roads and bridges found across the nation's aging system; and

Whereas congestion continues to build on our nation's highways, bridges, railways, and airways negatively impacting the economy and the environment; and

Whereas, the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) can no longer fully sustain the vast needs of the system, and continues to be regularly threatened with insolvency without a long-term, sustainable funding stream; and

Whereas, transit systems, both rural and urban, are unique assets of the region's transportation system; and

Whereas, the rail system (passenger and freight) is an integral part of the region and the nation's transportation system, as well as a key to economic vitality, and mobility, in the region; the nation; and beyond our borders; and

Whereas the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments Eastern Region Conference supports:

- Strong federal investment in mega-projects that are in the state, provincial, regional, and national interest;
- Increased investment in rural and urban transit systems
- Increased investment in the planning, design, construction of facilities, and high-speed rail, where appropriate, that will enhance intercity passenger rail service across the nation and between the US and Canada
- Investment in programs and projects that will link intercity passenger rail to other modes of transportation in a seamless, efficient manner
- A priority federal focus and increased investment in the region's aging bridges
- A focus on the importance of investing in the region's infrastructure as it pertains to travel and tourism within the continental U.S. and Canada and especially as related to the economic well-being of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; and

Whereas one way to finance all the transportation and related infrastructure is a National Infrastructure Bank; and

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Sen. Sharon Carson, New Hampshire, *Co-Chair*
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, New Hampshire, *Co-Chair*

Hon. Ted Arnott, Speaker, Ontario, *Vice Chair*

David N. Biette, *Director*



Whereas the United States Congress introduced HR 3339 to create a National Infrastructure Bank which could invest \$5 trillion into needed infrastructure including over \$2 trillion in transportation projects; and

Whereas the National Infrastructure Bank could repair and replace all aging bridges; and

Whereas the National Infrastructure Bank could repair and upgrade all highways and roads; and

Whereas the National Infrastructure Bank could build out a passenger rail network and create an extensive High-Speed Rail system to transform rail transportation in the region and the nation; and

Whereas the National Infrastructure Bank could upgrade all airports and help finance new projects; and

Whereas the National Infrastructure Bank could help modernize and expand municipal mass transit systems; and

Whereas, the National Infrastructure Bank would require no new federal appropriations and no new federal taxes, and has been done previously in United States' history; and

Whereas the National Infrastructure Bank would finance all the surface projects needed to bring the nation's transportation to a State of Good Repair; and

Whereas twenty-four state legislatures have filed resolutions in support of the National Infrastructure Bank and seven passed at least one legislature. The Maine and New Jersey legislatures passed the resolution in both houses, and the Rhode Island Senate and Delaware Senate each passed a resolution; bipartisan resolutions are introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate and House, and a Dear Colleague Sign-on letter is circulating in the New York Assembly; now,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Executive Committee of the Council of State Governments East supports the National Infrastructure Bank, as stated in HR 3339; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be communicated to federal elected officials; the Governors of the Northeast States; State Legislature Speakers and Senate Presidents; and Eastern Canadian Province Leaders; as well as trade associations, and others concerned with surface transportation policy.