

Northern Tier

Central Labor Council

Serving Clinton-Lycoming-Tioga and Bradford Counties

Northern Tier Central Labor Council of the PA AFL-CIO

Urges Congress to Create National Infrastructure Bank

Be it resolved that on March 8, 2021, the Northern Tier Central Labor Council of the PA AFL-CIO voted to support the resolution to urge Congress to enact legislation for a new National Infrastructure Bank.

Whereas, There is a widely acknowledged shortfall in infrastructure spending in the nation. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the country a D+ in its 2017 report card and estimates the nation needs to spend \$4.6 trillion to bring current infrastructure up to a state of good repair. The United States Chamber of Commerce reports that the infrastructure shortfall is \$3.7 trillion, and North America's Building Trades Union says the shortfall is \$4 trillion; and

Whereas, The infrastructure crisis in Pennsylvania mirrors that of the nation. The ASCE gave the state an overall C- in its 2018 report card. 43% of roadways owned by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) have fair or poor roadway surfaces, and traffic congestion presently results in over \$3.7 billion annually in lost time and wasted fuel. Pennsylvania has a D+ rating in this category; and

Whereas, other core components of our state's infrastructure are near failing grades, including wastewater collection and treatment as a D- with an anticipated funding gap of \$8.4 billion over the next 10 years for repairing or upgrading current systems, storm water collection and treatment. Drinking water is graded as a D with a projected funding gap of \$10.2 billion for public water systems, and 18.3% or 4,173 bridges are classified as being in poor condition and received a D+ grade; and,

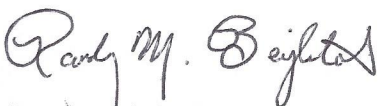
Whereas, Congress has introduced HR 6422, The National Infrastructure Bank Act of 2020, to create a \$4 trillion Bank with no new federal spending. This will be financed the same way as previous such banks, by monetizing existing Treasury debt, rather than creating new debt. This nonpartisan model was started by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton with the First Bank of the United States and has been successfully done four times in our nation's history, last by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This National Infrastructure Bank will create 25 million new jobs paying Davis-Bacon wages, utilize Project Labor Agreements, and enforce Buy American provisions, and create over a million new jobs in Pennsylvania; and,

Whereas, A new National Infrastructure Bank can help finance all the projects the nation needs, including passenger rail, mass transit, and high-speed rail; roads, bridges, schools, water systems, flood control, and all else. Franklin Roosevelt's national infrastructure bank, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, helped build Pennsylvania's infrastructure, including the entire Pennsylvania Turnpike, and it helped win World War II. The new Bank will also create jobs in the manufacturing and steel industries in Pennsylvania; and,

Whereas, This National Infrastructure Bank has been endorsed by many organizations, including in Pennsylvania. The following elected bodies have passed resolutions in support: Allegheny County Council, Pittsburgh City Council, Philadelphia City Council, Lancaster City Council, Allentown City Council, Northampton County Council. In addition, The Pennsylvania House of Representatives filed HR 636 with over forty bi partisan co- sponsors in support and the Pennsylvania State Senate introduced SR 338 in support of the bill in Congress. The Pennsylvania Democratic Party passed a resolution this summer in support of the bill in Congress. Many labor organizations nationally are in support including the Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, Virginia State AFL-CIO, Westchester-Putnam Counties NY Labor Council; Locals 1 and 52 Elevator Constructors, and more; now, therefore, be it

Resolved That the Northern Tier Central Labor Council hereby calls upon Congress of the United States to pass HR 6422 and create a new National Infrastructure Bank; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the entire Pennsylvania delegation to Congress, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of the Treasury, and to the President of the United States.



Randy Beightol,

President

Northern Tier Central Labor Council

500 Jordan Ave. Montoursville, PA 17754

