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02/01/2022

RESOLUTION NO. 6888, 2022

Introduced by Councilmember                      Days                     

**R E S O L U T I O N**

WHEREAS, 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 more than six trillion dollars would be needed to restore infrastructure to a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, over two and a half trillion dollars is currently not funded, the remainder is inadequately funded, and all new Twenty-First century projects are unfunded; and

WHEREAS, the ASCE gave the state of Missouri an overall grade of C- in its 2018 report card and dams were rated D-, energy D+, inland waterways D, levees D+, and roads D+ with twenty-three percent of the roads in poor condition with an annual cost of \$700 per motorist; and

WHEREAS, twelve percent of Missouri's bridges are structurally deficient and sixty-eight percent of dams in the state were graded High or Significant Hazard Potential; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis and St. Louis County need more than 35,000 affordable housing units to provide for minority and other households, low-income families, and renters according to the St. Louis Affordable Housing Report; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Communications Commission, twenty percent of Missouri's population doesn't have access to high-speed internet and the state education department says one in five students does not have access to the internet at home; and

WHEREAS, inland waterways on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers face funding shortfalls to repair and replace locks and dams and five locks on the Mississippi are fifty percent below the standard size and inhibit barge traffic on the river; and

WHEREAS, persistent flooding in the Missouri River Valley has caused repeated economic and personal hardship and a multi-

state Missouri River Authority, modeled after the Tennessee Valley Authority could address this problem; and

WHEREAS, Congress introduced HR 3339 to create a five trillion dollar National Infrastructure Bank ("NIB"); and

WHEREAS, the NIB is modeled after previous banks which helped build much of our infrastructure under Presidents George Washington, James Madison, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt and the last such bank helped bring us out of the Depression and win World War II; and

WHEREAS, the new NIB will function like its predecessors and will be capitalized by repurposing existing treasury debt and require no new federal appropriations and no new federal taxes; and

WHEREAS, the new NIB will invest five trillion dollars into infrastructure only and create twenty-five million new high-paying jobs paying David-Bacon wages and will include "Buy American" provisions; and

WHEREAS, disadvantaged businesses will be supported by the NIB and the NIB will mandate extensive minority hiring; and

WHEREAS, the new NIB will grow the economy by five percent per year as its predecessors did; and

WHEREAS, many organizations are in support of the legislation, including twenty-two state legislatures, as well as various county and city councils;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The County Council hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass HR 3339 to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects.

SECTION 2. The Administrative Director shall send certified copies of this Resolution to the entire Missouri delegation to Congress, Governor Mike Parson, and President Joseph R. Biden.

ADOPTED: February 1, 2022

RITA HEARD DAYS  
CHAIR, COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST: DIANN L. VALENTI  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

BETH ORWICK  
COUNTY COUNSELOR