
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8001

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Kuderer, Wellman, Nguyen, Keiser, and Conway

1 TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The American society of civil engineers in its 2021
9 infrastructure report card rated the current state of infrastructure
10 in the United States at C-minus and indicated that \$6.1 trillion
11 would be needed to restore the nation's infrastructure to a state of
12 good repair; and

13 WHEREAS, The American society of civil engineers stated that
14 newer projects and over \$2.62 trillion worth of corrective projects
15 are currently unfunded, and the remaining projects are not adequately
16 funded; and

17 WHEREAS, Congress took a step forward in 2021 passing the
18 Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act, providing \$1.2 trillion in
19 transportation investments, but it does not come close to meeting the
20 current need reported by the American society of civil engineers; and

21 WHEREAS, The American society of civil engineers' Seattle,
22 Tacoma-Olympia, and Inland Empire sections in 2019 rated the current
23 state of infrastructure in Washington at C, with drinking water,

1 roads, transit, stormwater, and wastewater receiving a rating of C-
2 or worse; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington's cities, counties, ports, and business
4 associations in a 2019 report identified more than \$222 billion in
5 infrastructure needs throughout Washington including highways,
6 bridges, freight rail, ports, airports, rural broadband, and energy;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Washington needs financing capacity to build 21st
9 Century infrastructure, including high-speed rail, renewable energy
10 conversion, public housing, and other projects, but many new and
11 visionary projects will not be able to secure funding through
12 traditional commercial investment banking processes and will remain
13 unfunded; and

14 WHEREAS, A new national infrastructure bank could directly aid in
15 fostering an economic recovery and build necessary infrastructure
16 projects; and

17 WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Danny Davis on May 19, 2021,
18 introduced legislation in Congress, H.R. 3339, to establish a new \$5
19 trillion national infrastructure bank authorized to invest solely in
20 infrastructure projects; and

21 WHEREAS, The new national infrastructure bank is modeled on four
22 previous institutions created, respectively, by Presidents George
23 Washington, John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D.
24 Roosevelt, which helped spur massive economic growth; and

25 WHEREAS, The new national infrastructure bank would be funded
26 through a repurposing of existing treasury debt, as was done
27 previously in the United States, and would require no new federal
28 spending; and

29 WHEREAS, A new national infrastructure bank could directly
30 finance much of our nation's infrastructure, in partnership with
31 state and local officials, and lead to the reemployment of people who
32 have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

33 WHEREAS, The new national infrastructure bank will supplement,
34 not supplant, the good work of the Infrastructure Improvement and
35 Jobs Act and allow us to fully invest in our future while creating an
36 estimated 25 million new jobs paying Davis-Bacon wages; and

37 WHEREAS, The new national infrastructure bank would ensure
38 project labor agreements for all projects and buy American provisions
39 also while awarding a significant number of contracts to

1 disadvantaged business enterprises and mandating large-scale minority
2 hiring; and

3 WHEREAS, The new national infrastructure bank is expected to grow
4 the economy by four to five percent each year; and

5 WHEREAS, Some 14 state legislatures and numerous county and city
6 governments have introduced or passed resolutions in support of the
7 new national infrastructure bank, and it has been endorsed by
8 organizations including the national association of counties, the
9 U.S. high-speed rail association, the national Latino farmers and
10 ranchers, the national congress of black women, the national
11 federation of federal employees, the public banking institute, the
12 American sustainable business council, the national association of
13 minority contractors, and many others;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
15 pass and the President sign H.R. 3339 or similar legislation.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
17 transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the
18 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
19 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
20 State of Washington.

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