

SENATE RESOLUTION

8607

By Senators Lovelett, Chapman, Dhingra, Orwall, Valdez, J. Wilson, and Warnick

1 WHEREAS, A 1983 public works report commissioned by the
2 Washington State Legislature found that local governments of the
3 State of Washington projected more than \$2 billion in critical
4 infrastructure needs at that time; and

5 WHEREAS, To support Washington State local governments in the
6 financing of critical infrastructure projects, the 1985 Washington
7 State Legislature created the Washington State Public Works Board and
8 Public Works Assistance Account through chapter 466, Laws of 1985;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Public Works Board is composed of 13 members
11 appointed by the governor; three representing cities, three
12 representing counties, three jointly representing water-sewer
13 districts and public utility districts, and four representing the
14 general public; and

15 WHEREAS, The Public Works Board is responsible for administering
16 Public Works Assistance Account funds in the form of low-interest
17 loans and grants to Washington State counties, cities, water and
18 sewer districts, and public utility districts to finance essential
19 drinking water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, road, bridge, and solid
20 waste infrastructure projects; and

21 WHEREAS, The Public Works Assistance Account is a revolving loan
22 fund that uses Public Works Board-awarded project loan repayments and
23 percentages of the Washington State real estate excise tax, public

1 utility tax, and solid waste tax to generate monies for
2 additional infrastructure-funded projects; and

3 WHEREAS, Since its creation, the Public Works Board has
4 invested nearly \$3.5 billion in more than 2,200 projects
5 supporting essential infrastructure to the direct benefit of
6 residents and businesses in every county and across cities and
7 towns in the State of Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, Just in the past six years, awards by the Public
9 Works Board have saved local governments \$188 million in
10 interest rate savings and grants, helping keep utility rates
11 affordable; and

12 WHEREAS, The success of the Public Works Board and Public
13 Works Assistance Account in providing a viable option for local
14 governments to finance critical infrastructure projects has been
15 recognized and emulated by other states across the nation; and

16 WHEREAS, In the 2023-2025 biennium, the Public Works Board
17 awarded \$392 million in loans and grants for construction
18 projects, \$15 million in loans and grants for preconstruction
19 projects, and \$8.5 million in loans and grants for emergency
20 infrastructure projects; and

21 WHEREAS, The 2025 Session of the Washington State
22 Legislature marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the
23 Public Works Board and the Public Works Assistance Account;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
25 Senate celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Public Works Board
26 and Public Works Assistance Account and recognize the
27 significant benefit the program has created for the State of
28 Washington and communities across the state by preserving public
29 health and safety, protecting the environment, supporting
30 affordable housing, and creating family-wage jobs since its
31 creation in 1985.

32 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
33 do hereby certify that this is a true and
34 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8607,
35 adopted by the Senate
36 January 31, 2025

- 1 SARAH BANNISTER
- 2 Secretary of the Senate