

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 393

Rep. Thanedar offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to in support of federal legislation to enable
2 the creation of a National Infrastructure Bank.

3 Whereas, In its 2021 report card, the American Society of
4 Civil Engineers (ASCE) reported that the United States received a
5 grade of C- regarding the current state of its infrastructure.
6 There remains a \$2.5 trillion investment gap that has continuously
7 grown over the past decade. ASCE estimates that by 2039, this
8 continued underinvestment in critical infrastructure across the
9 country will cost our nation \$10 trillion in GDP, more than 3
10 million jobs, and over \$2 trillion in exports; and

11 Whereas, The ASCE has scored Michigan's infrastructure with a
12 grade of D+, even lower than the national ranking. Many of
13 Michigan's roads remain in appalling condition. The ASCE has rated

1 approximately 39% of Michigan's 120,000 miles of paved roadways in
2 poor condition, 43% in fair condition, and a mere 18% in good
3 condition. Wayne County, as just one example, has reported nearly
4 60% of its roads to be in poor condition. Finally, 11% of
5 Michigan's bridges have been deemed structurally deficient. These
6 poor infrastructure conditions cost each Michigan motorist over
7 \$600 per year; and

8 Whereas, The Detroit Public Schools Community District is in a
9 state of dilapidated repair and likely requires over \$1 billion to
10 restore. These schools are suffering from inoperable boilers,
11 corroded plumbing fixtures, cracking exterior walls, leaking roofs,
12 and faulty electrical panels known to be fire hazards. At least 100
13 schools have current capital needs. In September of 2018, the
14 drinking water in 57 of the 86 tested Detroit schools were found to
15 have elevated levels of both copper and lead; and

16 Whereas, Housing insecurity predates the pandemic and remains
17 a pressing concern for Michiganders across the state. There remains
18 a shortage of 200,000 affordable and available rental homes for
19 low-income renters. In 2019, more than 10,000 Detroit residents
20 experienced homelessness, including 2,326 who were chronically
21 homeless. Of course, COVID-19 exacerbated this crisis. In January
22 of 2021 alone, more than 3,500 Detroiters requested rental payment
23 assistance; and

24 Whereas, The United States Congress's introduction of HR 3339,
25 The National Infrastructure Bank Act, which would create a new
26 National Infrastructure Bank, presents a tremendous opportunity for
27 acquiring funding to remedy Michigan's infrastructure problems.
28 This legislation would create a \$5 trillion bank for the purpose of
29 "facilitat[ing] the long-term financing of infrastructure

1 projects.” This bank would not require additional federal spending
2 or the imposition of new federal taxes, instead being financed
3 entirely by repurposing existing Department of the Treasury debt;
4 and

5 Whereas, The National Infrastructure Bank Act is modeled on
6 the establishment of previous banks utilized to build much of our
7 nation’s infrastructure. Similar banks were employed under
8 Presidents George Washington, James Madison, Abraham Lincoln, and
9 Franklin D. Roosevelt. With the resources consolidated and deployed
10 by virtue of the most recent iteration of a national bank,
11 President Roosevelt was able to bring our nation out of the Great
12 Depression and lead us to victory in the Second World War; and

13 Whereas, A new National Infrastructure Bank will help finance
14 all of Michigan’s infrastructure needs. This Bank, as described in
15 HR 3339, would exist solely to build infrastructure, generate jobs,
16 and battle poverty. Funding from this bank would be used to fix
17 bridges, roads, schools, drinking water systems; build affordable
18 housing units; and install broadband across the nation. The bank
19 would finance new rail and mass transportation projects, connecting
20 Michigan to high-speed rail corridors in the Midwest and
21 dramatically increasing manufacturing in the state. Funds would be
22 used to hire and train many Michiganders who lost their jobs during
23 the COVID-19 pandemic; and

24 Whereas, Support for a National Infrastructure Bank is
25 widespread across our state and the nation. Twenty-one state
26 legislatures have introduced or passed resolutions of support.
27 Local-level municipal bodies across the nation have also expressed
28 support, including: Dearborn Hts. City Council, Highland Park City
29 Council, Inkster City Council, Hamtramck City Council, Romulus City

1 Council, Redford Township Council, Cleveland City Council,
2 Pittsburgh City Council, Chicago City Council, Providence RI City
3 Council, Philadelphia City Council, New York City Council, Toledo
4 City Council, Akron City Council, and many more. National
5 organizations that endorse the establishment of National
6 Infrastructure Bank include: the Public Banking Institute, the
7 National Congress of Black Women, the National Association of
8 Counties, the US High Speed Rail Association, the National Latino
9 Farmers and Ranchers, the American Sustainable Business Council,
10 the National Association of Minority Contractors, the National
11 Federation of Federal Employees, and many others; now, therefore,
12 be it

13 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we support
14 federal legislation to enable the creation of a National
15 Infrastructure Bank; and be it further

16 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
17 President of the United States, the Governor, and the Michigan
18 congressional delegation.