

1 **2021 NYSAC Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Transportation and Public Works**  
3 **Resolution #5**

4 **Resolution in Support of Creating a National Infrastructure Bank**

5 **WHEREAS**, the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) 2021 Report Card for  
6 America's Infrastructure gave the United States a cumulative grade of C- regarding the  
7 current state of its infrastructure. At least \$6 trillion is required to restore the nation's  
8 infrastructure to a state of good repair, and some estimates run as high as \$10 trillion.  
9 At least \$2.5 trillion currently is not funded, and the remainder is inadequately funded.  
10 In addition, countless new projects including but not limited to clean energy, electric  
11 vehicle charging, energy efficiency retrofitting, flood control and stormwater  
12 management, storm resiliency, sewers, broadband expansion, and high-speed rail  
13 remain unfunded; and,

14 **WHEREAS**, the ASCE reports that in New York State alone, 424 dams are considered  
15 to present high-hazard potential. 7,292 miles of highway and 1,702 bridges are in poor  
16 condition, with 9.9 percent of all bridges in the State deemed structurally deficient. To  
17 repair, replace, and update the State's wastewater infrastructure would cost \$36.2  
18 billion over 20 years, and modernization to ensure safe drinking water would cost an  
19 estimated \$22.8 billion. The State's schools have an estimated capital expenditure gap  
20 of \$2.91 billion; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, 11 percent of trains and other transit vehicles in New York State are past  
22 their useful life. 1.7 million renters pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent due  
23 to shortages in affordable housing units; and,

24 **WHEREAS**, broadband access is still woefully deficient in New York State. Lack of  
25 physical access to broadband is a problem endemic in rural counties throughout the  
26 State, impeding economic development and quality of life. According to an analysis of  
27 the 2018 Census data by Future Ready Schools, 38 percent of all New York State  
28 households earning \$25,000 or less have no high-speed home internet connection; 20  
29 percent of households in the New York City metropolitan area, serving 750,000  
30 students, lack high-speed internet. According to the National Digital Inclusion Alliance,  
31 32 percent of households in Syracuse, 20 percent in Rochester, and 19 percent in Buffalo  
32 had no broadband connection of any type. According to the United States Census, that  
33 figure was 25 percent in Utica; and,

34 **WHEREAS**, H.R.3339, The National Infrastructure Bank Act, would create a new  
35 National Infrastructure Bank (NIB). This bank's lending power would be set at \$5  
36 trillion. It would be authorized to invest in infrastructure projects only. It would require  
37 no new federal spending and no new taxes, being capitalized by repurposing existing  
38 Treasury debt, as was done previously in United States history; and,

39 **WHEREAS**, the NIB will help finance the infrastructure needs of New York State and  
40 cover all projects not included in the federal budget, such as passenger and high-speed

1 rail. The NIB is mandated to build infrastructure and create jobs in all communities,  
2 urban and rural, and to reduce poverty. It would be authorized to fund repairs to  
3 bridges, roads, tunnels, schools, drinking water systems, and wastewater treatment  
4 systems; construction of affordable housing units; installation of broadband in deprived  
5 communities; and new projects such as clean energy, stormwater management, and  
6 flood control. It will provide jobs for New Yorkers who became unemployed during the  
7 Covid pandemic; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, the NIB is modeled on previous banks that helped build much of our  
9 infrastructure under Presidents George Washington (as designed by Treasury Secretary  
10 Alexander Hamilton), James Madison, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.  
11 The last such bank, President Roosevelt’s Reconstruction Finance Corporation, helped  
12 bring us out of the Great Depression and win World War II; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, the NIB will create 25 million new jobs, pay Davis-Bacon wages, and  
14 enforce Buy American provisions. Disadvantaged, minority, and women-owned  
15 business enterprises will receive significant opportunities. According to experts, based  
16 on experience with prior such banks, the NIB will grow the economy by 5 percent  
17 annually; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, 21 state legislatures have filed or passed resolutions of support for the  
19 NIB. City and county legislative bodies in New York State that have introduced or  
20 passed resolutions include the Peekskill Common Council, Westchester County Board of  
21 Legislators, and the New York City Council. Other county-level endorsements include  
22 the Allegheny County Council (PA), Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders (NJ),  
23 Northampton County Council (PA), Rio Arriba County Board of Commissioners (NM),  
24 Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (FL), Lucas County Board of County  
25 Commissioners (OH), Dodge County Board of Supervisors (WI), North Central Florida  
26 Regional Planning Council (includes 12 counties), and the Toledo Metropolitan Area  
27 Council of Governments (OH). Trade union support of the NIB includes the  
28 Westchester-Putnam Counties AFL-CIO Central Labor Body (NY), the Hudson Valley  
29 Building and Construction Trades Council (NY), and the International Union of Elevator  
30 Constructors Local One (NY-NJ). Other organizations endorsing the NIB include the  
31 National Association of Counties, National Association of Minority Contractors,  
32 National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, American Sustainable  
33 Business Council, National Congress of Black Women, the Public Banking Institute, and  
34 the US High Speed Rail Association. Resolutions supporting the NIB are currently  
35 pending before the Michigan State Legislature, the County Commissioners Association  
36 of Pennsylvania, and many more such bodies.

37 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New York State Association of  
38 Counties calls upon the United States Congress to pass and the President of the United  
39 States to sign into law H.R. 3339, and thereby create a National Infrastructure Bank;  
40 and

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
42 President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the New York State Congressional Delegation, Governor

1 Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and  
2 proper.