

HR150 INTRODUCED



1 4AXPII-1
2 By Representative Jackson
3 RFD: RULES
4 First Read: 02-May-23
5
6 2023 Regular Session



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HR_____ ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SUPPORTS NATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK.

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 \$6 trillion would be needed to restore the nation's infrastructure to a state of good repair; over \$2 trillion is currently not funded, and the remainder is inadequately funded; new, 21st Century projects remain unfunded; and

WHEREAS, deteriorated roads and bridges, congestion, and lack of desirable safety features are costing Alabama motorists \$5.3 billion per year in extra vehicle operating costs, which is about \$1,846 per driver; in urban areas, drivers lose up to \$990 and nearly one full work week per year sitting in congestion; the surface transportation network will need at least \$37 billion over the next 12 years to reach a state of good repair; the Alabama Department of Transportation must triple its spending levels on bridges over the next 10 years to reach a state of good repair; four percent of Alabama's bridges are structurally



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26 deficient; nearly half (49 percent) of the state's bridges
27 were built in 1969 or earlier; and

28 WHEREAS, one in eight Alabamians, including one in
29 four rural residents, still do not have broadband access at
30 home; many who do have connectivity available in their
31 communities still do not subscribe to broadband at home; all
32 told, 27 percent of Alabamians do not use broadband at home;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, there is a shortage of at least 87,000
35 rental units for low income renters; and

36 WHEREAS, Alabama is the only U.S. State without a
37 dam safety program; Alabama regulates only three out of its
38 2,273 dams, according to the National Inventory of Dams; the
39 2021 Alabama Infrastructure Report Card states that Alabama
40 has 226 High Hazard Potential Dams whose failure could cause
41 significant loss; and

42 WHEREAS, the state's water systems are severely
43 underfunded; inland waterways and wastewater were graded D
44 in the ASCE report card; deferred maintenance has led to
45 some inland waterways being closed for commercial traffic,
46 slowing the economy; two locks have been closed, and 12 more
47 are over 50 years of age; the wastewater system needs at
48 least \$3 billion; one-quarter of the state's septic tanks
49 are failing, and at least 50 percent of the state's
50 wastewater infrastructure needs expansion; and

51 WHEREAS, Congress introduced HR 3339, The National
52 Infrastructure Bank Act, to create a new National
53 Infrastructure Bank; this legislation creates a \$5 trillion



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54 bank, authorized to invest in infrastructure projects only;
55 it would require no new federal spending and no new federal
56 taxes; it would be capitalized by existing treasury debt, as
57 was done previously in United States history; and

58 WHEREAS, a new National Infrastructure Bank (NIB)
59 will help finance all of the infrastructure of Alabama in
60 partnership with state and local governments; it is mandated
61 to build infrastructure and create jobs in rural and urban
62 communities; and

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

68 WHEREAS, the new National Infrastructure Bank will
69 create 25 million new jobs, pay prevailing wages, and
70 include Buy America provisions; disadvantaged business
71 enterprises will receive significant disbursements, and the
72 bill mandates large-scale minority hiring; it will
73 dramatically expand small and medium size businesses and
74 increase revenues into state and local governments;
75 according to experts, the bank will grow the economy by five
76 percent per year as did its predecessors; and

77 WHEREAS, many organizations have issued
78 endorsements; 24 state legislatures have introduced or
79 passed resolutions of support, as have county and city
80 councils; national endorsements include the National Black
81 Caucus of State Legislators, the National Asian-Pacific



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82 American Caucus of State Legislators, the National
83 Association of Development Organizations (all 541 Regional
84 Planning Commissions), the Public Banking Institute, the
85 National Association of Counties, the United States High
86 Speed Rail Association, the National Latino Farmers and
87 Ranchers, the American Sustainable Business Council, the
88 National Association of Minority Contractors, the United
89 Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, and many more
90 organizations; now therefore,

91 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
92 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Alabama House of
93 Representatives hereby calls upon the United States Congress
94 to pass HR 3339, or similar legislation, to create a
95 National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently-needed
96 infrastructure projects.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
98 resolution be transmitted to the Alabama Delegation,
99 Congress, the Governor, and the President of the United
100 States of America.