

## HR79 INTRODUCED



1 7QCIV2-1  
2 By Representative Jackson  
3 RFD: RULES  
4 First Read: 13-Apr-23  
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HR\_\_\_\_\_ SUPPORTING A 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 deficient; nearly half (49 percent) of the state's bridges



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26 were built in 1969 or earlier; and

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

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

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

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

50 WHEREAS, Congress introduced HR 3339, The National



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51 Infrastructure Bank Act, to create a new National  
52 Infrastructure Bank; this legislation creates a \$5 trillion  
53 bank, authorized to invest in infrastructure projects only;  
54 it would require no new federal spending and no new federal  
55 taxes; it would be capitalized by existing treasury debt, as  
56 was done previously in United States history; and

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

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

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



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77           WHEREAS, many organizations have issued endorsements;  
78   24 state legislatures have introduced or passed resolutions  
79   of support, as have county and city councils; national  
80   endorsements include the National Black Caucus of State  
81   Legislators, the National Asian-Pacific American Caucus of  
82   State Legislators, the National Association of  
83   Development Organizations (all 541 Regional Planning  
84   Commissions), the Public Banking Institute, the National  
85   Association of Counties, the United States High Speed Rail  
86   Association, the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers, the  
87   American Sustainable Business Council, the National  
88   Association of Minority Contractors, the United Association  
89   of Plumbers and Steamfitters, and many more organizations;  
90   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.