

Proclamation of the Albany County Legislature

- Whereas,** There is a widely acknowledged shortfall in infrastructure spending in the United States; and
- Whereas,** The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the United States a D+ in its 2017 report card and estimates that the nation needs to spend \$4.6 trillion to bring current infrastructure up to a state of good repair; and
- Whereas,** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports that the infrastructure shortfall in the U.S. is \$3.7 trillion and North America's Building Trades Unions states that the shortfall is \$4 trillion; and
- Whereas,** The infrastructure crisis in Albany County mirrors that of the nation; and
- Whereas,** The ASCE report card in 2015 gave the State of New York a grade of C+, with roads given a grade of D+, bridges D+, transit C-, and aviation C. Congestion costs the state \$6.3 billion annually; New York has more structurally deficient bridges than the country's average. To repair, replace, and update New York's wastewater infrastructure would cost \$36.2 billion over 20 years; and
- Whereas,** New York is a transportation hub for rail, highway, air and water, and major investments are needed now; and
- Whereas,** The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy has been massive in the nation and the State of New York. Millions of people are unemployed and tens of thousands of businesses shuttered, many permanently. The nation still lacks the ability to manufacture the needed medical and protective equipment to address this ongoing crisis; and
- Whereas,** The U.S. Congress can enact legislation for a new national infrastructure bank, to be capitalized at \$4 trillion; and
- Whereas,** A new National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) could directly help finance all of these projects. The NIB could also finance the health care infrastructure and could hire many of those who have lost their jobs into higher paying construction and related employment; and
- Whereas,** This nonpartisan model was started by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton with the First Bank of the U.S. and has been successfully used four times in our nation's history, including under President John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. The NIB was used to finance roads, bridges, dams, railroads, canals and other projects; and
- Whereas,** A new NIB would adhere to Project Labor Agreements and local prevailing wage levels, in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931; and
- Whereas,** A new NIB would give preferential consideration to disadvantaged communities in choosing projects to fund; and
- Whereas,** A new NIB would include the preferential consideration formulation of U.S. House Representative James Clyburn, mandating that ten percent of investments be in communities, both urban and rural, where twenty percent of the population has been below the poverty level for thirty years or

more, thereby resulting in hundreds of billions in infrastructure investments in underserved communities; and

Whereas, A new NIB would create 25 million new high-paying union jobs in the process and help end poverty in our nation's rural and urban areas; and

Whereas, A new NIB would help combat climate change by financing green buildings and many projects the nation needs, including high-speed rail roads, bridges, schools, water systems, flood control, and many others which can spur future economic development; and

Whereas, A new NIB has been endorsed by many organizations, including the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, the National Congress of Black Women, the Democratic Municipal Officials and the National Federation of Federal Employees. In addition, many state and local legislatures have passed resolutions in support of a new NIB; and now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Albany County Legislature calls on the New York's federal delegation to establish a national infrastructure bank and pass HR6422; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this proclamation be transmitted to the President of the United States, each member of Congress representing Albany County and the Governor of New York.

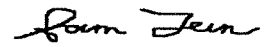
In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the County Legislature of Albany County to be affixed on this 27nd day of August, 2021.



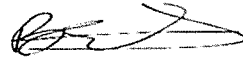
Hon. Andrew Joyce
Chairman
Albany County Legislature



Hon. Merton Simpson
Albany County Legislature



Hon. Sam Fein
Albany County Legislature



Hon. Beroro Efekoro
Albany County Legislature



Hon. Alison McLean Lane
Albany County Legislature

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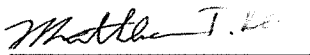
Hon. Carolyn McLaughlin



Hon. Wanda Willingham



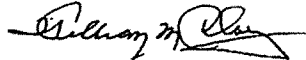
Hon Norma Chapman



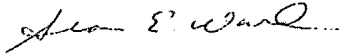
Hon. Matthew Peter



Hon. Lynne Lekakis



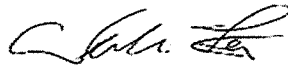
Hon. William Clay



Hon. Sean Ward



Hon. Gil Ethier



Hon. Dennis Feeney



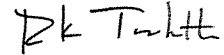
Hon. William Reinhardt



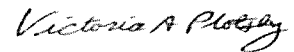
Hon. Jeffrey Kuhn



Hon. Matthew Miller



Hon. Richard Touchette



Hon. Victoria Plotsky