

Communications Workers of America – North Carolina
Resolution in Support of the National Infrastructure Bank (H.R.
5356)

Whereas, the Communications Workers of America North Carolina (CWA NC) represents workers across telecommunications, broadband, manufacturing, airlines, and related sectors whose jobs depend on strong, reliable, and publicly accountable infrastructure; and

Whereas, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) stated in its 2025 Report Card that the United States received a grade of C for the overall condition of its infrastructure, with more than \$9 trillion needed to bring infrastructure to a state of good repair, including nearly \$4 trillion currently unfunded; and

Whereas, modern infrastructure includes not only roads, bridges, water, and energy systems, but also high-quality, affordable broadband and telecommunications networks that are essential to economic development, public safety, education, healthcare, and full workforce participation; and

Whereas, significant portions of North Carolina, particularly rural, low-income, and historically underserved communities, lack access to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband, deepening the digital divide and harming workers, students, seniors, small businesses, and public safety; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that broadband and telecommunications networks are critical infrastructure, necessary for remote work, distance learning, telehealth, emergency communications, and access to government services; and

Whereas, according to ASCE, approximately 33% of North Carolina roads are in poor or fair condition, more than 1,150 bridges (about 8.4%) are in poor condition with an estimated \$4 billion needed for repairs, and the state faces major unmet needs in drinking water, wastewater, and lead service line replacement; and

Whereas, North Carolina faces a shortage of more than 200,000 units of affordable housing, and continued underinvestment in infrastructure disproportionately burdens working families and low-income communities; and

Whereas, large-scale, long-term investments in passenger rail, public transit, energy systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and especially broadband and telecommunications networks are essential to North Carolina's economic growth, disaster preparedness, and long-term competitiveness; and

Whereas, H.R. 5356, the National Infrastructure Bank Act, introduced in the 119th Congress, would establish a \$5 trillion National Infrastructure Bank dedicated exclusively to financing public infrastructure projects, including broadband and telecommunications infrastructure; and

Whereas, the National Infrastructure Bank would utilize existing U.S. Treasury debt, require no new federal taxes and no new federal appropriations, and provide long-term, low-cost financing to states, local governments, public authorities, cooperatives, and other public or community-based entities; and

Whereas, the National Infrastructure Bank is modeled on successful public financing institutions used throughout U.S. history to build foundational infrastructure, strengthen domestic industry, and support broad-based economic growth; and

Whereas, the National Infrastructure Bank is projected to create millions of good-paying jobs nationwide and would require Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, Project Labor Agreements, Buy America standards, and strong labor protections—directly benefiting CWA-represented telecommunications and broadband workers in North Carolina; and

Whereas, the National Infrastructure Bank would support the construction, expansion, modernization, and maintenance of broadband and telecommunications networks built and maintained by trained, union-represented workers, while promoting network reliability, cybersecurity, and long-term public benefit; and

Whereas, the National Infrastructure Bank would keep public infrastructure in public hands, prioritize financing for public and community-based entities, and would not promote the privatization of essential broadband or telecommunications infrastructure; and

Whereas, enactment of the National Infrastructure Bank would directly benefit North Carolina by helping close the digital divide, expand affordable broadband access, strengthen telecommunications resilience, and create tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs across both rural and urban communities;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Communications Workers of America North Carolina (CWA NC) hereby endorses H.R. 5356, the National Infrastructure Bank Act; and

Be It Further Resolved, that CWA NC urges members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to support and co-sponsor H.R. 5356 to address the state's critical infrastructure needs, expand affordable broadband and telecommunications access, and protect and grow good union jobs in North Carolina; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that CWA NC directs this resolution to be transmitted to the North Carolina Congressional Delegation and used in the union's state-level legislative and advocacy efforts in support of public infrastructure investment and working families.