



Central New Mexico Labor Council
P.O. Box 30631
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190

February 5, 2021

U.S. Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the Central New Mexico Labor Council which makes up 26 different unions, I am urging you to support the new National Infrastructure Bank legislation in Congress, HR 6422. Additionally, I have been a lineman with 27 years of experience with the biggest Electric Utility in the State of New Mexico. Understanding the condition of the national power grid, plus how much more load we are asking the grid to handle with the addition of wind and solar energy, we need a more robust transmission infrastructure capability.

HR 6422, addresses the severe economic crisis that presently faces our nation, and encompasses the infrastructure shortfalls in our state, including power transmission. I refer both to the deadly impact from the coronavirus pandemic, but also to the deeper economic conditions that are being made worse by today's accompanying recession. Tens of millions of people are losing their jobs over 3 million businesses have already permanently closed.

I was informed that House Bill HR 6422, the National Infrastructure Bank Act of 2020, was introduced into the U.S. Congress on March 31, 2020. Modeled on four previous banks in our nation's history, this legislation would create a government-owned bank that would lend up to \$4 trillion to state and local governments to repair and upgrade public infrastructure in every corner of our country.

This Bill has many advantages over all other proposals now under discussion to re-build America's infrastructure and create new jobs. This new National Infrastructure Bank:

- At \$4 trillion it is Adequately Sized to Finance Projects In Every State: It would yield less traffic congestion and CO2 pollution; lead-free water; new schools, affordable housing, mass transit, broadband everywhere, repair roads and bridges, electricity grids, new rail including High Speed, and more.
- Workers: Creates 25 million new jobs, paying at least Davis-Bacon wages; re-hires from among the 22 million Americans now unemployed; provides training in permanent, new, construction and related occupations. Reduces income inequality. Stimulates union membership.
- Businesses: Lots more business from all the new construction; economy more productive; trucks move faster; more consumer demand.



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- **Economy:** Would ramp up jobs and production coming out of the coronavirus collapse; pushes up long-term growth from 1.8%/year, to 5%/year (based on past performance and recent computer modeling).
- **Federal Budget:** Creates no new Federal Debt; requires no new Taxes. Is not dependent on Pay-As-You Go financing. No other infrastructure or jobs proposal is budget neutral like this one.
- **State and Local Finances:** New jobs and economic recovery/growth improve local finances much faster than after the 2008 Recession.

The need to build infrastructure, and create great-paying jobs, has been kicked around for too long. This is a concern for us all, and now this is the time to move, before we end up in a Second Great Depression.

Therefore, I urge you to co-sponsor HR 6422. Make our country one to be proud of again. Thanks for your help and consideration. Our staff is available to convene discussions to further brief you on this urgent matter.

Thank you,

Mark Strand
President of the Central New Mexico Labor Counsel