

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. R. No. 348

Representative Skindell

Cosponsors: Representatives Ingram, Lightbody, Sobecki, Russo, Boyd, Boggs

A RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Congress to pass House	1
Resolution 6422 to create a National	2
Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed	3
infrastructure projects.	4

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)	5
stated in its 2017 report card that the United States received a	6
grade of D+ regarding the current state of infrastructure and	7
that more than four-and-a-half trillion dollars would be needed	8
to restore the nation's infrastructure to a state of good	9
repair. Public spending on infrastructure fell by eight per cent	10
over the past fifteen years. Over two trillion dollars is	11
currently not funded, and the remainder is inadequately funded.	12
New projects remain unfunded; and	13

WHEREAS, The ASCE report card also gave the state of Ohio a	14
low grade, and in 2019 it gave Northeast Ohio a D+. The state	15
will need to invest at least twelve billion two hundred million	16
dollars to upgrade the drinking water systems, fourteen billion	17
six hundred million dollars to upgrade waste water systems,	18
nearly seven per cent of the state's bridges are rated	19
structurally deficient, and driving on roads in poor repair	20

costs each driver five hundred forty-five dollars a year; and 21

WHEREAS, The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the 22
economy has been massive, with millions of people either 23
temporarily or permanently out of work and shortages of hospital 24
beds and equipment and machinery across all areas of the 25
economy; and 26

WHEREAS, A new National Infrastructure Bank (NIB) could 27
directly finance these projects. The NIB could also help finance 28
health care infrastructure needed to address the current 29
emergency, and it could also put people who have lost their jobs 30
back to work in higher-paying employment; and 31

WHEREAS, The NIB is modeled on previous banks that helped 32
build much of our nation's infrastructure, including 33
infrastructure in Ohio. Under Presidents George Washington, 34
James Madison, John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin 35
D. Roosevelt, similar institutions helped finance the roads, 36
dams, bridges, canals, power systems, and railroads that made 37
our nation the envy of the world. The final such institution 38
helped bring us out of the Great Depression and win World War 39
II; and 40

WHEREAS, The NIB will operate as its predecessors did and 41
be capitalized by existing United States Treasury debt, 42
requiring no new appropriations. It will be able to invest four 43
trillion dollars into urgently needed infrastructure projects 44
and create twenty-five million new, high-paying, Davis-Bacon 45
wage jobs. It will raise productivity to three to five per cent 46
per year, and increase the gross domestic product to the four to 47
five per cent level. Those results were achieved previously and 48
will occur again; and 49

WHEREAS, Many organizations have introduced or passed 50
resolutions in support of this policy, including seventeen state 51
legislatures, many city and county councils, the National 52

Congress of Black Women, the National Latino Farmers and 53
Ranchers, the National Association of Counties, the National 54
Federation of Federal Employees, and many others. The United 55
States Congress introduced House Resolution (H.R.) 6422 to 56
create the NIB; now therefore be it 57

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of 58
Representatives, call upon the United States Congress to pass 59
H.R. 6422 to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance 60
urgently needed infrastructure projects; and be it further 61

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 62
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to each 63
member of the Ohio congressional delegation, the president of 64
the United States, and the news media of Ohio. 65