



Resolution of the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association Congreso, October 28-30, 2021

Whereas, there is a widely-acknowledged infrastructure crisis in the nation. The American Society of Civil Engineers gave the country a C- in their 2021 Report Card, and said that the cost of repairing 16 categories of infrastructure is approximately \$6.1 trillion over 10 years. Over \$2.6 trillion of that amount is unfunded, and with the current budget deficit running at \$3 trillion this year, only \$550 billion of new money has been proposed in an infrastructure spending bill currently under consideration; and,

Whereas, the \$2.6 trillion shortfall in infrastructure money does not include financing of new projects like: water management to address drought in Pacific and Southwestern agricultural states, extending broadband to rural and underserved communities, building a complete high speed and passenger rail network across America, and expanding our electric grid to make it resilient and cyber secure; and,

Whereas, the rural community has been hard hit by a combination of massive flooding and drought resulting from climate change, inaccessibility to broadband, and the collapse of rural transportation and healthcare systems. These deficits are combined with falling farm prices, uncertain trade arrangements, and increasing monopolization of farm output at the top, viz. Cargill, McDonalds, Archer Daniels Midland, Tyson Foods, etc., leading to increased poverty at the bottom of the chain of food producers; and,

Whereas, the hardship visited upon the average farmer and rural communities has led to a growing social demoralization. Many rural areas are hard hit by a combination of underemployment, drug addiction, and suicides, as a result of despair and hopelessness in the future; and,

Whereas, there is a growing movement to return to a national policy of economic growth and optimism. A centerpiece of this program is the National Infrastructure Bank, created under Congressional House Bill HR 3339, capitalized with no new federal deficit spending, taxes, or debt, and in the tradition of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt. Public infrastructure banks have been instituted four times in our history, built much of the infrastructure we take for granted, and helped drive the development of our nation. However, most projects have outlived their useful lifespan. A new National Infrastructure Bank, would invest at least \$5 trillion into our crumbling infrastructure, in both urban and rural communities; and,

Whereas, a National Infrastructure Bank could build all the new infrastructure which is sorely needed in rural America, from broadband, to the provision of water management systems, to repairing bridges for the effective conveyance of goods to market. It could help finance new schools, hospitals, drinking water facilities, and transportation systems, while bringing the current infrastructure up to a state of good repair; and,

Whereas, this new infrastructure program must be coupled with new legislation restoring parity pricing for agriculture, and fair-trade policies that would benefit domestic agricultural producers and our overseas partners; now, Therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association, meeting in convention in Albuquerque, NM on the weekend of October 28-30, 2021, hereby calls upon the Congress of the United States to enact a new National Infrastructure Bank, as set out in HR 3339, which will build our rural and urban areas equally, and lift the nation out of despair and economic hard times; and

Be It Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution will be delivered to all members of Congress and to the President of the United States.