

ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING A NATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.

WHEREAS, public infrastructure impacts United States residents throughout their daily life and includes roads, bridges, water supply, sewage treatment, stormwater collection, schools, public parks, aviation, railroads, dams; and

WHEREAS, according to sources, our nation's spending on infrastructure has fallen to its lowest level in 70 years, to 2.5% of our nation's GDP, ½ the comparable level in Europe, and 1/3 the level in China; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure development needs careful planning and a reliable source of long-term funding in order for it to succeed; and

WHEREAS, according to sources, if this is not addressed, America's overdue infrastructure bill will cost each American household approximately \$3,300 per year, or \$63 per week, while negatively affecting our health, economic vitality, resilience and our climate, and perpetuating inequity; and

WHEREAS, expanded investment is needed in new manufacturing centers, affordable housing, broadband access, science and technology drivers, to accommodate population growth and migration, and for other improvements in urban, and low-income areas that the private sector does not currently serve; and

WHEREAS, The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the United States a C- in its 2021 Infrastructure Report Card, with 11 of the 17 categories receiving scores in the 'D' range, including transit, aviation, dams, hazardous waste, inland waterways, levees, public parks, roads, schools, stormwater, wastewater, and, the pandemic revealed lack of broadband; and

WHEREAS, the ASCE estimates that \$6.1 trillion is needed just to repair our nation's infrastructure, and \$2.6 trillion is currently NOT funded, including complete broadband access, affordable housing, a renewable energy super grid, and major water management projects to combat flooding; and

WHEREAS, the ASCE Report Card in 2021 gave Florida a grade of C, with drinking water a C+, Schools a D+, stormwater a D, transit a C, and roads a C. Florida faces multiple infrastructure challenges. For example, driving on roads in need of repair in Florida costs each

driver \$425 per year, 2.9% of bridges are rated structurally deficient—half of those are under county ownership and maintenance. Drinking water needs in Florida are an estimated \$21.9 billion. The state also has \$18.4 billion in wastewater needs. 102 dams are considered to be high-hazard potential. To address the ongoing problem of hurricane devastation, the state will need to put many power lines underground, build seawalls, and other structures; all this deteriorating infrastructure impedes Florida’s ability to compete in an increasingly global marketplace and,

WHEREAS, stormwater was added as a new category given its importance in safeguarding water quality and protecting against flooding, and received a D+ rating, and,

WHEREAS, the annual gap in stormwater funding is over \$7.5 billion just for compliance, excluding urban flooding, and given that increasing development creates more impervious surfaces, and, the combination of aging, often inadequately designed stormwater management systems and rainfall volumes that are increasing over time result in increased runoff that means more flooding, and cloud bursts, especially in urban areas, and more pollutants entering streams and rivers, and,

WHEREAS, flooding and stormwater management have been identified as an area of vulnerability in Alachua County, Florida (Alachua County DEP); and

WHEREAS, Congress introduced HR 6422, National Infrastructure Bank Act of 2020, to create a new National Infrastructure Bank (NIB). This legislation creates a \$4 trillion bank, authorized to invest in infrastructure projects only. It would require no new federal spending and no new taxes other than a small initial appropriation from Congress; it would be capitalized by repurposing existing Treasury debt, as was done previously in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, the NIB is modeled on previous banks which helped build much of our nation’s infrastructure, and helped bring us out of the Depression and win WWII; and

WHEREAS, a new NIB can help finance many projects the nation needs, including water and wastewater systems, flood control, broadband, schools, transportation and road repair, bridges, energy and electrification, affordable housing, and many others, that can spur future more equitable economic development; and

WHEREAS, a new NIB will directly help finance most of the infrastructure of Florida in partnership with state, county, and local government, including building infrastructure and roadways, and bringing broadband connectivity into every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, this nonpartisan model was started by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton with the First Bank of the United States and has been successfully used four times in our nation's history, including under Presidents John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt; who used a NIB to finance the roads, bridges, dams, railroads, canals and other projects that made us the envy of the world; 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 United States House Representative James Clyburn, mandating that ten percent of investments be in communities, both urban and rural, where 20 percent of the population has been below the poverty level for 30 years or more, thereby resulting in hundreds of billions in infrastructure investments in underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that borrowers from the NIB will be state and local governments and will not allow privatization of public infrastructure, beyond what has already taken place, and infrastructure projects will be vetted according to their cost-benefit analysis and criteria set out in the draft bill, and;

WHEREAS, these infrastructure improvements will upgrade essential services to our communities, that will improve the health and well-being of all, and save people, business, and governments, money; and

WHEREAS, according to sources, a new NIB could 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 energy efficient buildings, flood mitigation efforts for our waterways, and the purchase of sustainable, environmentally friendly materials for transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, endorsements have encompassed a broad range of state, county and city legislatures that have introduced or passed resolutions of support. National organizations have also passed resolutions of endorsement, including: The National Association of Counties, The American Sustainable Business Council, the US High Speed Rail Association, the National Latino Farmers and Ranchers, the National Association of Minority Contractors, the National Federation of Federal Employees, The Public Banking Institute, The National Congress of Black Women, and many more community organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA (“BOARD”), as follows:

1. The Board calls upon the United States Congress to pass H.R. 6422, to create a National Infrastructure Bank to finance urgently needed infrastructure projects; and
2. The Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Florida delegation to Congress, the Governor, and to the President of the United States.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida.

DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: _____
Ken Cornell, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

J.K. "Jess" Irby, Esq.
Clerk of Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM

(SEAL)

County Attorney