

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

INFRASTRUCTURE: Memorializes the United States Congress to address specific principles in its infrastructure plan

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to pass legislation that supports efforts to build,  
3 modernize, and maintain the United States' infrastructure with consideration of  
4 certain principles.

5 WHEREAS, a country's infrastructure is the bedrock of its economy; and

6 WHEREAS, the traditional system of roads, bridges, railroads, waterways, and  
7 pipelines, commonly referred to as infrastructure, affects a country's ability to produce  
8 goods, deliver services and products, and connect a workforce to jobs; and

9 WHEREAS, the strength and efficiency of a nation's infrastructure have a direct  
10 impact on that nation as a global economic competitor and leader; and

11 WHEREAS, on a local level, infrastructure also affects a state's ability to participate  
12 and thrive in the nation's economy; and

13 WHEREAS, with an inadequate infrastructure, a state struggles to move its people  
14 and goods throughout the state and across state lines; and

15 WHEREAS, Louisiana currently has a more than thirteen billion dollar backlog for  
16 sorely needed road and bridge work throughout the state; and

17 WHEREAS, identifying funding and generating revenue to address the state's  
18 backlog have been looming problems for many years; and

19 WHEREAS, the Louisiana section of the American Society of Civil Engineers  
20 (ASCE) evaluated and studied eleven major components of Louisiana's infrastructure; and

1 WHEREAS, after its evaluations, the Louisiana section of the ASCE, in its 2017  
2 Louisiana Infrastructure Report Card, determined that, "Our infrastructure is poorly  
3 maintained, inadequately funded, and not designed to meet tomorrow's demands.  
4 Consequently, the state is at a disadvantage and will continue to lose its economic  
5 competitiveness."; and

6 WHEREAS, the ASCE has given the state of Louisiana a statewide average grade  
7 of "D+" for its infrastructure; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States' infrastructure also suffers from years of deterioration  
9 and neglect; and

10 WHEREAS, for decades, the United States has failed to develop means to finance  
11 infrastructure projects to keep pace with the needs of the country; and

12 WHEREAS, choosing to defer repairs, maintenance, and upgrades to the country's  
13 infrastructure has delivered a crippling blow to the nation's economy and growth; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States also received a cumulative grade of "D+" from the  
15 ASCE, showing a drop in grades for three categories: parks, solid waste, and transit; and

16 WHEREAS, the ongoing and consistent decline of the country's infrastructure  
17 jeopardizes the United States' ability to remain competitive in the global market; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States now faces serious challenges as it seeks to address  
19 pitfalls including having to prioritize badly needed projects with insufficient funding; and

20 WHEREAS, through a combination of federal and nonfederal funding, President  
21 Donald Trump has set a one trillion dollar infrastructure investment as his target; and

22 WHEREAS, the president has outlined the following four key principles as the basis  
23 for his proposal:

24 (1) Make targeted federal investments.

25 (2) Encourage self-help.

26 (3) Align infrastructure investment with entities best suited to provide sustained and  
27 efficient investment.

28 (4) Leverage the private sector; and

1 WHEREAS, while the United States Congress will be faced with the decision to  
2 enact the president's plan or propose its own, choosing to do nothing is not a viable option;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, since the United States Congress must act, it should do so with an eye  
5 toward responsibility, innovation, and sustainability; and

6 WHEREAS, it is vitally important that congress consider new and creative plans to  
7 design and implement an infrastructure network that reaches every state, serves every  
8 demographic, increases employment, and moves the United States of America into the  
9 twenty-first century to rightfully regain its position as a global economic leader; and

10 WHEREAS, such plans must include a comprehensive approach to the nontraditional  
11 and ever-changing needs of the nation's people, businesses, and technology.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to pass  
14 legislation that supports efforts to build, modernize, and maintain the nation's infrastructure  
15 with consideration for the following principles:

16 (1) Redefining infrastructure. A twenty-first century economy demands a broader,  
17 more inclusive definition to ensure that the country is fully considering all of its  
18 infrastructure needs. A newer definition should be expanded to include the following:

19 (a) Energy-efficient housing.

20 (b) Broadband.

21 (c) Education facilities, including access to traditional universities and community  
22 colleges, as well as Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

23 (d) Forest roads, sidewalks, and bike trails.

24 (e) Parks.

25 (f) Waste removal and treatment.

26 (g) Programs connecting seniors to the rest of the economy.

27 (2) Committing to fund job training and workforce development. Provisions must  
28 focus on enabling young workers and urban residents to benefit from any infrastructure plan  
29 through training, pre-apprenticeships, and related approaches, including Registered  
30 Apprenticeships within the telecommunications and technology sectors. It must promote

1 meaningful skills development, technical training, internships, and job placement  
2 opportunities for African Americans and urban community members. This must be fully  
3 integrated into any proposal. Without this, the benefits will not be broadly and fairly shared.

4 (3) Empowering minority contractors. Minority contractors should have the  
5 opportunity to rebuild their communities and employ hardworking Americans along the way.  
6 Infrastructure investments should be disseminated through a transparent procurement  
7 process with aggressive contracting goals for disadvantaged business entities and effective  
8 enforcement to root out fraudulent firms. Contractors and subcontractors should have the  
9 ability to employ local hiring preferences and subcontractors should receive prompt payment  
10 when services are rendered.

11 (4) Promoting inclusiveness. Infrastructure development and planning should be  
12 inclusive of underserved segments of the population, such as poor, rural, and elderly  
13 communities. A twenty-first century economy should not exclude any individuals from  
14 participation on the basis of demographics, geography, or financial means. By ensuring  
15 participation from all individuals, this country can provide equal opportunity for each and  
16 every American to contribute in meaningful ways to the economy and the communities in  
17 which they live.

18 (5) Building for resilience. Climate change and the volatility that are associated with  
19 extreme weather events are only expected to worsen over time. More intense storms, sea  
20 level rise, storm surges, and other unusual weather conditions are placing an immense strain  
21 on the nation's infrastructure and the limited resources that it has to build and maintain it.  
22 As the country plans for the future and conceptualizes how it will build up its infrastructure,  
23 it needs to consider the long-term viability of these projects and their resilience to extreme  
24 weather.

25 (6) Multi-modal transportation planning. A robust transportation network must  
26 consider the changing demographics of its users and the subsequent changes in demand.  
27 Conventional transportation planning relies heavily on motor vehicle traffic. However, many  
28 communities - particularly in urban areas - must now consider pedestrians, cyclists, public  
29 transit riders, ridesharing, and other users when evaluating the effectiveness of the  
30 transportation ecosystem.

(7) Future-proofing. The development and adoption of autonomous vehicles, positive train control, NextGen, Smart City planning, and other technologies and transportation models are vastly altering the way the country conceptualizes, plans, and executes transportation policy. The unique challenges that the nation faces will only grow increasingly more complex as the population grows and the nature of its infrastructure becomes more interconnected. An infrastructure package must not only address the immediate needs of the country's crumbling system, but also anticipate the needs of a generation to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 110 Original                                      2018 Regular Session                                      James

Memorializes congress to pass legislation that supports efforts to build, modernize, and maintain the United States' infrastructure with consideration of the following principles:

- (1) Redefining infrastructure.
- (2) Committing to fund job training and workforce development.
- (3) Empowering minority contractors.
- (4) Promoting inclusiveness.
- (5) Building for resilience.
- (6) Multi-modal transportation planning.
- (7) Future-proofing.