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(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish the United States Commission on Infrastructure Investment,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish the United States Commission on Infrastructure
Investment, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Commis-
5 sion on Infrastructure Investment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 1808, Albert Gallatin, while serving as
9 President Thomas Jefferson’s Secretary of the

1 Treasury, reported to Congress on the infrastructure
2 investments needed by the young Nation.

3 (2) Gallatin's plan built on President George
4 Washington's vision of connecting the interior settle-
5 ments of the Nation with the markets and ports of
6 the East Coast through a network of roads and ca-
7 nals, and provided a roadmap for infrastructure de-
8 velopment in the 19th century.

9 (3) In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt con-
10 vened a conference of State and territorial gov-
11 ernors, members of his Cabinet and Congress, pro-
12 fessional organizations, private citizens, and govern-
13 ment agencies to plan for the United States con-
14 servation and infrastructure needs in the 20th cen-
15 tury.

16 (4) The resulting plan laid the groundwork for
17 many of the critical investments initiated by Presi-
18 dent Franklin D. Roosevelt to jumpstart the Na-
19 tion's recovery from the Great Depression.

20 (5) Today, as in 1808 and 1908, the United
21 States is faced with significant economic, environ-
22 mental, and demographic challenges.

23 (6) Development of a bold national plan will
24 allow the United States to meet these 21st century

1 challenges in the most sustainable, efficient, and
2 cost-effective way.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 There is established a commission to be known as the
5 “United States Commission on Infrastructure Invest-
6 ment”.

7 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

8 (a) APPOINTMENT OF INITIAL MEMBERS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be
10 composed of 14 members as follows:

11 (A) 3 members, including the chairman of
12 the Commission, to be appointed by the Speak-
13 er of the House of Representatives.

14 (B) 2 members to be appointed by the mi-
15 nority leader of the House of Representatives.

16 (C) 3 members to be appointed by the ma-
17 jority leader of the Senate.

18 (D) 2 members to be appointed by the mi-
19 nority leader of the Senate.

20 (E) One member to be appointed by the
21 President of the Executive Committee of the
22 Board of Directors of the National Association
23 of Counties.

24 (F) One member to be appointed by the
25 Chair of the National Governors Association

1 Executive Committee, in consultation with the
2 Vice Chair of that Executive Committee.

3 (G) One member to be appointed by the
4 Executive Director of the National Conference
5 of State Legislatures.

6 (H) One member to be appointed by the
7 Chairman of the Executive Directors Committee
8 of the National Association of Regional Coun-
9 cils.

10 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENT.—The members of
11 the Commission to be appointed under this sub-
12 section shall be appointed not later than 30 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act.

14 (b) APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the members
16 to be appointed under subsection (a), the Commis-
17 sion shall be composed of 4 members to be ap-
18 pointed by the Secretary of Transportation in con-
19 sultation with the Administrator of the Environ-
20 mental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy,
21 and the Secretary of the Treasury.

22 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENT.—The members of
23 the Commission to be appointed under this sub-
24 section shall be appointed not later than 30 days
25 after the last day of the public comment period re-

1 ferred to in section 5(a)(3), but in no event shall
2 such appointments be made before February 1,
3 2009.

4 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Com-
6 mission shall be knowledgeable in—

7 (A) the fields of transportation finance,
8 highway and transit programs, and transpor-
9 tation policy;

10 (B) the fields of water supply, water infra-
11 structure, and water conservation policy; or

12 (C) the fields of energy supply, energy in-
13 frastructure, and energy conservation policy.

14 (2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN REPRESENTA-
15 TIVES.—The members of the Commission may in-
16 clude representatives of State and local governments,
17 public transportation authorities, and other appro-
18 priate governmental units.

19 (d) CHAIRMAN.—The chairman of the Commission
20 shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives at the time of the appointment.

22 (e) TERMS.—The members of the Commission shall
23 be appointed for the life of the Commission.

1 (f) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission shall
2 be filled promptly and in the manner in which the original
3 appointment was made.

4 (g) MEETINGS.—

5 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
7 sion shall hold the initial meeting of the Commis-
8 sion.

9 (2) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at
10 the call of the chairman of the Commission or a ma-
11 jority of its members.

12 (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
13 the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
14 lesser number of members may hold hearings.

15 (h) PAY.—Members of the Commission shall serve
16 without pay.

17 (i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Com-
18 mission shall receive travel expenses, including per diem
19 in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provi-
20 sions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
21 States Code.

22 **SEC. 5. DUTIES.**

23 (a) REVIEW OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall review
25 published materials on the Nation's transportation,

1 water, and energy infrastructure and, based on the
2 review, assess the challenges of meeting the Nation's
3 infrastructure needs in the 21st century.

4 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
5 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
6 Commission shall submit to Congress a report on
7 the review and assessment conducted under para-
8 graph (1) and make the report available to the pub-
9 lic.

10 (3) OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.—
11 During the 90-day period beginning on the date on
12 which the report is made available to the public
13 under paragraph (2), the Commission shall provide
14 an opportunity for the public to submit comments to
15 the Commission concerning the report. The Commis-
16 sion shall compile the comments received under this
17 paragraph and submit a report containing the com-
18 ments to Congress.

19 (b) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

20 (1) NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON INFRASTRUCTURE
21 NEEDS.—In order to facilitate a national dialogue on
22 the Nation's infrastructure needs, the Commission
23 shall hold public hearings in at least 50 congres-
24 sional districts representing a cross-section of geo-

1 graphical regions of the United States and consult
2 with other interested persons.

3 (2) PERIOD FOR CONDUCTING HEARINGS.—The
4 Commission shall hold the public hearings under this
5 subsection during the period beginning on the date
6 of the appointment of additional members under sec-
7 tion 4(b) and ending on the date of submission of
8 a final report under subsection (c).

9 (c) FINAL REPORT.—

10 (1) NATIONAL VISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN-
11 VESTMENTS.—Not later than 270 days after the
12 date of the appointment of the additional members
13 to the Commission under section 4(b), the Commis-
14 sion shall prepare and submit to Congress a report
15 that—

16 (A) documents the challenges of meeting
17 the Nation's transportation, water, and energy
18 infrastructure needs in the 21st century; and

19 (B) articulates a national vision of infra-
20 structure investments to overcome the chal-
21 lenges.

22 (2) SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report
23 to be submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain
24 specific recommendations on appropriate policies and
25 investments, including integration of existing pro-

1 grams, to provide the people of the United States
2 with—

3 (A) improved transportation mobility,
4 choice, and access to economic opportunities;

5 (B) streamlined investment processes to
6 facilitate State and local transportation invest-
7 ments;

8 (C) improved community health outcomes
9 and social equity;

10 (D) improved water conservation, quality,
11 and quantity;

12 (E) an efficient, vibrant, and flexible elec-
13 tric grid that delivers clean, safe, and affordable
14 energy; and

15 (F) reductions in greenhouse gas emis-
16 sions.

17 (d) MODEL PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES.—In addi-
18 tion to the report under subsection (c), not later than 270
19 days after the date of the appointment of the additional
20 members to the Commission under section 4(b), the Com-
21 mission shall submit to Congress a set of model principles
22 and guidelines to ensure that future investments in the
23 Nation's transportation, water, and energy infrastructure
24 incorporate the findings and recommendations contained
25 in the report submitted under subsection (c).

1 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

2 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—For the purpose of
3 carrying out this Act, the Commission may hold such
4 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such
5 testimony, administer such oaths, and receive such evi-
6 dence as the Commission considers appropriate.

7 (b) OTHER EVIDENCE.—The Commission shall gath-
8 er evidence through such means as the Commission con-
9 siders appropriate, including—

10 (1) by soliciting comments through Federal
11 Register notices; and

12 (2) by receiving testimony at public hearings
13 conducted by members of the Commission, at the di-
14 rection of the chairman of the Commission, subject
15 to appropriate rules governing the receiving of evi-
16 dence.

17 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
18 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
19 United States, information (other than information re-
20 quired by any law to be kept confidential by such depart-
21 ment or agency) necessary for the Commission to carry
22 out its duties under this Act. Upon request of the Commis-
23 sion, the head of that department or agency shall furnish
24 such nonconfidential information to the Commission.

1 (d) CONTRACTS.—The Commission may enter into
2 contracts with other entities in carrying out the duties of
3 the Commission.

4 (e) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
5 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
6 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
7 States.

8 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the
9 request of the Commission, the Administrator of General
10 Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimburs-
11 able basis, the administrative support services necessary
12 for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under
13 this Act.

14 **SEC. 7. STAFF.**

15 (a) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix
16 the pay of such personnel as the Commission considers
17 appropriate.

18 (b) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
19 of the Commission, the head of any Federal department
20 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
21 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission
22 to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under
23 this Act.

24 (c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Commission
25 may procure temporary and intermittent services under

1 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates
2 for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the
3 maximum annual rate of basic pay for GS-15 of the Gen-
4 eral Schedule.

5 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
7 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

8 **SEC. 9. TERMINATION.**

9 The Commission shall terminate on the 180th day
10 following the date of transmittal of the final report re-
11 quired under section 5(e). All records and papers of the
12 Commission shall thereupon be delivered to the Adminis-
13 trator of General Services for deposit in the National Ar-
14 chives.