

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR UPSTATE NEW YORK

WHEREAS, there is general agreement that transportation infrastructure throughout New York State is in need of significant upgrade and modernization, and

WHEREAS, following an October 10, 2015 agreement between Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York State will spend more than eight billion dollars over the next five years to close a funding gap that will finance the capital needs of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and

WHEREAS, a 2013 study of local roads and bridges by the New York State Town Highway Superintendents Association projected that the funding needs for local roads and bridges totaled \$34.8 billion through 2030, and

WHEREAS, given the revenue cap created by the New York State real property tax cap, most local governments do not have the financial capacity to fund necessary highway and infrastructure improvements, and

WHEREAS, safe and efficient roads and bridges are essential to the needs of economic development in rural New York counties, and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2015, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo echoed the need to fund infrastructure improvements in Upstate New York by telling reporters in Rochester, “We always fund transportation needs all around the state. We need to fund them downstate and we need to fund them upstate. There’s no doubt about that”.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State strongly encourages Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to include in their budget priorities the creation of an Upstate New York Transportation and Infrastructure Improvement Fund, similar in scale to that which was created for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, in order to establish parity between the upstate and downstate regions with respect to transportation funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State forward copies of this Resolution to the offices of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, New York State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Assembly Committee on Transportation Chair David F. Gantt, New York State Senate Temporary President John J. Flanagan, Senate Minority Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Committee on Infrastructure and Capital Investments Chair Andrew J. Lanza, Senate Committee on Transportation Chair Joseph E. Robach and Senate Committee on Transportation Co-chair Carl L. Marcellino.

By: Jason A. Clark, Secretary

Date: December 12, 2015

On a Motion by Mr. Hurley and a Second by Mr. Bellardini, the Board of Directors of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State unanimously approved this Resolution by a vote of 14-0.

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

January 8, 2016

(Distribution)
(by Certified Letter)

Dear Governor Cuomo, Speaker Heastie, Chairman Gantt, Temporary President Flanagan, Conference Leader Stewart-Cousins, Chairman Lanza, Chairman Robach and Co-chairman Marcellino:

It is my privilege to provide you with a copy of a Resolution that was recently passed by the Board of Directors of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State entitled, ***Resolution Supporting an Infrastructure Improvement Fund for Upstate New York.***

Should you have any questions regarding the Resolution, please forward them to DRC Chair Irene Stein. She can be reached by telephone at (607) 266-7579 or by email at iws2iws2@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Clark,
Secretary