Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 163

BY REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK WILLIAMS

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request certain parishes to work together to form the North Louisiana
3	Infrastructure Zone and Trust.
4	WHEREAS, infrastructure is a vital and foundational element in the future
5	competitiveness of North Louisiana and the region's infrastructure assets, including but not
6	limited to mass transit, surface and highway transportation, freight rail, ports, education
7	facilities, water and sewer, and other services and facilities that all require significant and
8	ongoing improvement and upgrades; and
9	WHEREAS, financing upgrades, improvements and expansions of the region's
10	infrastructure assets will be challenging given competing demands for capital that can be
11	raised in the municipal finance markets as well as budget and financial constraints that often
12	result in monies being allocated to shorter term initiatives and operational expenditures; and
13	WHEREAS, infrastructure funding from the state and federal governments has been
14	inconsistent and unpredictable, with demand for funding clearly exceeding the resources
15	available as states and municipalities compete for inevitably limited funding; and
16	WHEREAS, a range of private investors and organizations, including but not limited
17	to foundations, labor unions, public sector and private sector pension funds, private equity
18	funds, mutual funds, and sovereign wealth funds have demonstrated a growing interest in
19	low-risk, long-term infrastructure investments and it is in the best interest of the region to
20	work collaboratively with such investors and organizations in a transparent and strategic
21	manner to arrange required financing for a range of transformative infrastructure projects
22	for the benefit of the region and its residents; and
23	WHEREAS, the region needs to diversify its options and alternatives for financing

24 of infrastructure projects, including financing arrangements that are predictable and

HR NO. 163 ENROLLED 1 attractive to a broad range of investors, all in a manner that is fully transparent and on terms 2 and conditions that benefit the region and its residents; and 3 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the region to work to establish a 4 professionally managed and governed infrastructure fund that will serve the following 5 purposes and objectives: 6 (1) Provide funding and credit support to qualifying transformative infrastructure 7 projects. 8 Play an important coordinating and facilitative role in attracting private (2)9 investment for these infrastructure projects. 10 (3) Have associated grant-making capabilities for select infrastructure projects. 11 (4) Facilitate funding of infrastructure projects affecting one or more coordinate 12 units of local government that will enable the sharing of labor, resources, and knowledge 13 between and among such units of local government. 14 (5) Establish high standards of transparency regarding the types of capital and 15 investments received, the infrastructure projects funded, the investment returns on such 16 projects, and other information that will be easily accessible to the public and subject to 17 rigorous oversight and audit. 18 WHEREAS, the trust should be capitalized by a combination of monies appropriated 19 by a variety of public entities and capital provided by a range of third-party investors and 20 organizations; and 21 WHEREAS, the trust would secure alignment among stakeholders from all relevant 22 parishes, municipalities, and other public entities and maximize efficiency and create project 23 scale to improve terms by functioning as a central contact across multiple forms of 24 governments. 25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 26 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, 27 Caddo, Caldwell, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, 28 Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn to work together to create the North Louisiana 29

30 Infrastructure Zone and Trust.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 2 president of the parish police jury or the president of the parish commission of each parish 3
 - listed in this Resolution and to the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, Inc.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES