

The purpose of the National Infrastructure Development Act is to increase the public works investment critical to our long-term economic growth. It does so by using innovative financing and techniques already used in the private sector to encourage more investment in our roads, bridges and transit systems.

The National Infrastructure Development Act establishes an innovative, investment-oriented Foreign infrastructure strategy to help States and municipal governments finance needed infrastructure. It creates a National Infrastructure Corporation to provide a broad array of financing for infrastructure projects.

The Clinton administration's innovative investment program shows that there is tremendous interest among States and local governments in new methods that would make Federal capital dollars go further. In the past year alone, the administration has given approval to over 70 innovative financing projects in over 30 States. Moreover, 20 States have expressed interest in establishing State infrastructure banks that would enable them to make more created use of Federal transportation funds.

While the Congress in ISTEA provided greater flexibility in our highway program, we have only scratched the surface of the potential. The recent experiences with privately-financed toll roads in California and Virginia and my many discussions with State officials, business leaders, and local leaders lead me to believe that there is a strong need for creative Federal leadership.

By leveraging private and other public sector monies, the corporation would substantially increase the amount of infrastructure created by each Federal public works dollar. Experts estimate that the corporation would leverage up to \$10 in private investment for every \$1 it receives from the Federal Government. Under this legislation, the corporation's capitalization would be \$3 billion. It is anticipated that this could support generate tens of billions in new investment and hundreds of thousands of jobs, while eliminating hundreds of infrastructure bottlenecks that stifle growth.

Congresswoman DELAURO has proposed an innovative mechanism to address the national problem of underinvestment in our public works. The legislation make a valuable contribution to understanding the issue and attaining this goal. I urge my colleagues to join in our effort to boost the Nation's public investment and productivity.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of legislation creating the National Infrastructure Corporation [NIC], of which I am an original cosponsor.

Today, it is estimated that there are over \$30 billion in unfunded infrastructure projects throughout the United States. Due to increasing Federal, State, and local budget constraints, important infrastructure projects are being delayed or not considered at all. While it is clear that the United States is becoming increasingly a technology and information driven based economy, the necessity to build, repair and upgrade our roads, bridges, rail system, schools, and water treatment projects are just as important today as they ever have been.

That is why I have joined my colleagues today to address this important issue. This bill established the National Infrastructure Corporation to foster more public/private construction projects and to help create good jobs. The

NIC will provide credit assistance in the form of direct loans, bond insurance, and development risk insurance for critically needed infrastructure projects throughout the country.

The creation of the NIC is an innovative or smart financing mechanism to help augment existing Federal and State grant programs. As we in Congress look for better ways to leverage Federal resources, the NIC is a prime example of how the Federal Government can provide initial financial and significant in-kind resources to build new infrastructure and strengthen our old and outdated infrastructure.

To that end, I look forward to working with Representative ROSA DELAURO to bring this legislation to the country's attention and make it a priority in Congress.

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REPORT FROM INDIANA ON HOOSIER HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana. Every weekend Ruthie and I travel around my district and often meet amazing people, individuals who are truly dedicated to being the backbone of our community.

These are good people, taking responsibility for the future of our community. I like to call them Hoosier heroes. Today I want to praise leaders of the Stop the Violence movement in Anderson, IN, who have come together to help their community. With their persistence and dedication, they have created a very special group called Stop the Violence. Members of the community like Garrett Williams, Rev. Ray Wright, and Al Simmons have joined with schoolteachers and students at the Shadeland Elementary School. They were fed up with gangs and drug dealers and the violence in their streets, and they came together and said, "Stop the violence now." They marched through their streets wearing purple ribbons, purple T-shirts, and a purple ball cap to symbolize peace in our community.

They sent a message to the drug dealers. They were not going to take it anymore. Today, the Stop the Violence movement, which is spearheaded by Rudy Porter in the mayor's office, sends a message to the schoolchildren of Anderson: You do not have to carry guns, you do not have to fight with your classmates, you do not have to buckle under to the pressure of drug dealers to be cool.

Stop the Violence gives schoolchildren and parents hope. They give our entire Nation hope, and I am proud to have been able to march with Rudy and those students, and I wish all Americans could witness the pride and joy that came from those children's faces as they set out to stand up to the criminals and the drug dealers who roam their streets.

They said no. No more violence, no more drugs, no more crime. Hoosier he-

roses like Rudy Porter and Stop the Violence Committee give us hope that America's best days are indeed yet to come.

That is why I would like to commend not only Rudy, but also the schoolteachers, Karen Crawford and Freddie Williams, and a principal at Shadeland School, Sharon Taylor Martin, who cares deeply about her children. And let us not forget the children, the children in Shadeland School, whose small, tiny voices, spoke out loudest of all. You made us proud. You are all Hoosier heroes.

If every community in America had Hoosier heroes like Rudy Porter and the students and the leaders of the Stop the Violence movement, our young people would get a message from us, a message loud and clear, we care about you, we have not forgotten who you are.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is my report from Indiana for today. God bless.

NIKE'S RACE TO THE BOTTOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in support of our "Come Shop with Me" campaign, the New York Times fortunately ran a story this month on the business page with the subtitle "Low Wages Would Foreign Business, But the Price Is Worker Poverty." The story, which I will enter in the Record tonight, describes how a 22-year-old Indonesian man named Tongris was dismissed from his job making Nike shoes for export to the United States because he was organizing his fellow workers to demand more than the government-dictated poverty wage.

How much was Tongris and his co-workers getting paid to make Nike shoes? Twenty cents an hour. And that is with no benefits.

More than 5,000 workers turn out Nike shoes at this plant in Indonesia, shoes which often sell for over \$100 a pair here in the United States. Nike and thousands of other manufacturers have been lured to set up business in Indonesia by the pitifully low wage level, along with the assurance by the Indonesian government that it will tolerate no strikes or independent worker associations. But as the Indonesian government itself admits in the article, it sets its wage purpose fully extremely low to only provide the minimum calories the worker need to survive each day.

My friends, this is no different from how plantation owners thought about feeding their slaves. Feed them enough so that they will not die on the job. In fact, I remember visiting the Auschwitz death camp and reading the sign above the entry gate that read "Work will make you free."

Nike would like you to believe that they are truly a great American company. Nike in fact has been spending