

Washington, DC— Today, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), in delivering the Democratic view of the State of our Union, announced her support for a national plan that charts a New Direction to renew and rebuild America's infrastructure. Earlier this week, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore) called for a new plan to rebuild America after introducing two resolutions commemorating the 1808 Gallatin Plan and President Roosevelt's 1908 Conference of Governors.

"Our predecessors recognized the need to invest in our nation's infrastructure, and today Speaker Pelosi joins the ranks of those leaders by offering her support for a new vision for America," **said Congressman Blumenauer**. "With our bridges crumbling and levees toppling, now is the time for a new, innovative National Plan that will direct the next century of investment and rebuild our country. Global warming, the greatest challenge of this generation, means that we need to prepare for a new century and new obstacles. I am pleased to see the Speaker taking on these challenges, just as Gallatin and President Roosevelt did centuries before her."

"Congressman Blumenauer has been a leader in forging a new vision for rebuilding America," **said Speaker Nancy Pelosi**

. "When it comes to creating jobs, revitalizing our economy and addressing global warming, we must have the right resources and infrastructure to address these needs. In keeping with the tradition of great American leaders such as Albert Gallatin and Teddy Roosevelt, who laid out clear visions for America, I am proud to join with Congressman Blumenauer and all those working to implement a new vision that will help us meet the challenges of the 21st century."

2008 marks the bicentennial of the Gallatin Plan. This plan implemented George Washington's vision of connecting the interior settlements with the markets and ports of the East Coast through a network of roads and canals.

One hundred years later, President Theodore Roosevelt launched a similar effort when he invited every state Governor to join members of his Cabinet and Congress, professional organizations, and government bureaus in a National Conference at the White House to discuss infrastructure needs for the 20th century. The resulting report incorporated the growing interest in conservation and articulated the need for future investments in the nation's infrastructure.

Speaker Pelosi made the following statement in her prebuttal to the State of the Union:

“For our nation, we will chart a New Direction where we renew America’s infrastructure and rebuild it in a way that is greener and helps confront the climate crisis.

“Two hundred years ago, in 1808, Thomas Jefferson charged his Treasury Secretary, Albert Gallatin, with drafting a plan to develop America’s infrastructure, works like the Erie Canal and the Cumberland Road, to take advantage of a nation that was growing thanks to the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition.

“A century later, in 1908, Theodore Roosevelt launched a similar commitment when he convened a White House Conference on Conservation to stress the importance of preserving America’s natural beauty. That led to the creation of the National Park Service and helped a growing America remain a green America.

“In 2008, in keeping with the traditions of these great American leaders, we must keep America growing while making America greener.

“That means reinvesting in our crumbling highways and bridges and renewing our commitment to mass transit, solutions which will create jobs for the middle class. It also means expanding broadband access across America, and particularly to rural communities.

“Again, in our infrastructure challenge there is job-creating opportunity – to reinvigorate the American economy.”