

Henry Cuellar voted for the trillion-dollar infrastructure bill that funded Democrat pet projects. This trillion-dollar bill contributed to the record inflation we are facing today driving up the cost of groceries, gas, and everyday items.

**On November 5, 2021, Cuellar voted for H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:**

- **On November 5, 2021, Cuellar voted for the Motion to Concur on H.R. 3684, passing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.** (H.R. 3684, [Roll Call #369](#), Passed 228-206: R 13-200, D 215-6, Cuellar Voted Yea, 11/5/21)
- **The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides for \$1.2 trillion in federal spending over the next five years.** “The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides for \$1.2 trillion in federal spending over the next five years. Learn how this could impact economic recovery and what it could mean for your business, organization, or agency.” (“Infrastructure Bill,” [EY](#), Accessed 7/15/22)

***Editor’s Note:** 13 Republicans in the House voted for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. That list includes Don Bacon (NE), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), Andrew Garbarino (NY), Anthony Gonzalez (OH), John Katko (NY), Adam Kinzinger (IL), Nicole Malliotakis (NY), David McKinley (WV), Tom Reed (NY), Christopher Smith (NJ), Fred Upton (MI), Jefferson Van Drew (NJ), and Don Young (AK)*

## Non-Traditional Infrastructure Spending

### Electric Vehicle Spending

**The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$15 billion on electric vehicles, electric buses, and “low carbon” ferries:**

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would provide \$7.5 billion to “build out a national network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the country.”** “Provides \$7.5 billion (B) for alternative fuel corridors and to build out a national network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the country.” (Jennifer Larkin Lukawski, William Crozer, and Chay English, “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - Electric Vehicles, Buses and Ferries,” [BGR Group](#), accessed 2/22/22)
- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes \$5 billion for “the replacement of existing school buses with zero emission and clean school buses.”** “Includes \$5B for the replacement of existing school buses with zero emission and clean school buses, with a priority on low income, rural, and Tribal schools.” (Jennifer Larkin Lukawski, William Crozer, and Chay English, “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act - Electric Vehicles, Buses and Ferries,” [BGR Group](#), accessed 2/22/22)
- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides \$2.5 billion to “replace existing ferries with low carbon ferries.”** “Provides \$2.5B for state and local governments to replace existing ferries with low carbon ferries and to assist states with operational costs for essential rural ferries.” (Jennifer Larkin Lukawski, William Crozer, and Chay English, “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act specifically provides \$250 million for “an electric or low-emitting ferry pilot program to support the transition of passenger ferries to low- or zero-emission technologies.”** “\$250 million for an electric or low-emitting ferry pilot program to support the transition of passenger ferries to low- or zero-emission technologies.” (Progressive Railroading Editorial Staff, “FTA unveils transit infrastructure funding priorities,” [Progressive Railroading](#), 11/16/21)

## Recycling Programs

**The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$350 million on recycling programs, including \$75 million “boost public education about recycling, such as public relations campaigns to remind people how and where to recycle:”**

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act incorporated the “RECYCLE Act,”** spending \$350 million on recycling programs, including “\$75 million to boost public education about recycling, such as public relations campaigns to remind people how and where to recycle.” “The infrastructure bill incorporated the RECYCLE Act and, as part of the \$350 million in funding, allocated \$75 million to boost public education about recycling, such as public relations campaigns to remind people how and where to recycle. With the funding, EPA will be able to award grants to improve the effectiveness of residential and community recycling programs through public education and outreach.” (James Bruggers, “Biden’s Infrastructure Bill Includes Money for Recycling, But the Debate Over Plastics Rages On,” [Inside Climate News](#), 11/24/21)

## Reconnecting Communities

**The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$1 billion in grants for projects addressing infrastructure that “hampered the connectivity of communities” through “reconnecting and revitalizing areas that were harmed by the disruptive construction of highways through neighborhoods:”**

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$1 billion in grants for projects addressing infrastructure that “hampered the connectivity of communities.”** “An initiative the infrastructure bill refers to as the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program provides \$1 billion over five years in grants for planning and projects aimed at either removing, retrofitting or mitigating pieces of highway and similar infrastructure that hampered the connectivity of communities, including affecting their economic development.” (Caroline Vakil, “Advocates see pilot program to address inequalities from highways as crucial first step,” [The Hill](#), 11/26/21)
- **Senators Schumer and Gillibrand stated that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$1 billion to reconnect and revitalize “areas that were harmed by the disruptive construction of highways through neighborhoods.”** “The senators said the bill will invest a historic \$1 billion in efforts such as construction, planning, and community engagement

to expand economic opportunity and address environmental hazards like air pollution in communities across New York and the country by reconnecting and revitalizing areas that were harmed by the disruptive construction of highways through neighborhoods.” (Senator Charles E. Schumer, “Following Their Continued Advocacy, Schumer, Gillibrand Announce Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Creates First-Ever Program to Revitalize Upstate NY Communities Divided by Highways; Senators Say \$1 Billion For Reconnecting Communities Key First Step In Addressing Historic Inequities & Increasing Investment In Disadvantaged Areas,” [Press Release](#), 11/20/21)

## Animal Bridges

### **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$350 million to “construct wildlife crossings over and under roads:”**

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$350 million to “construct wildlife crossings over and under roads.”** “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would provide the nation’s first dedicated resources—\$350 million over five years—for state, local, and tribal governments to construct wildlife crossings over and under roads.” (Marcia Argust, “Measures in Infrastructure Bill Would Help Fish and Wildlife,” [The PEW Charitable Trusts](#), 11/15/21)

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$2.96 billion on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:**

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act spends \$2.96 billion on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.** “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: A \$2.96 billion investment in NOAA’s future.” (Lori Arguelles, “Statement from NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad on the signing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), 11/15/21)

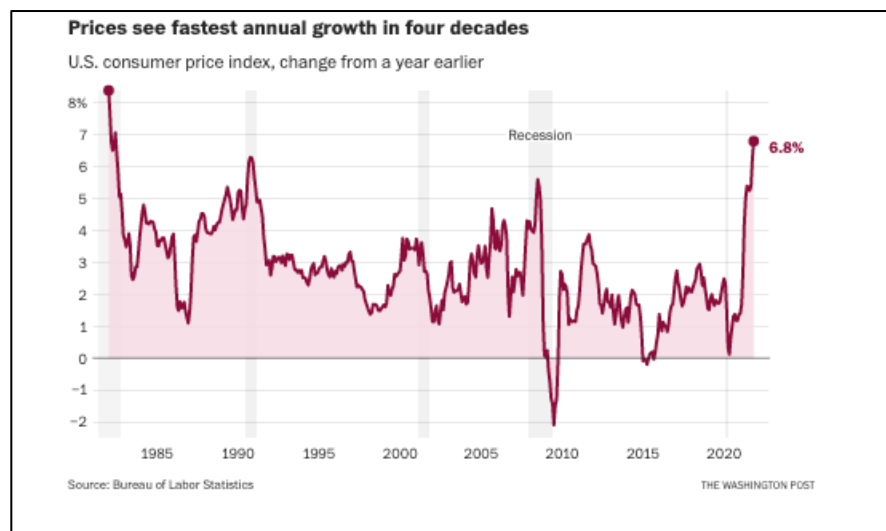
### **NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad stated that the \$2.96 billion will go towards expanding “climate prediction capabilities and services,” towards “Pacific salmon recovery,” and towards “investments in supercomputing,” among others:**

- NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad stated that the \$2.96 billion will go towards expanding “climate prediction capabilities and services,” towards “Pacific salmon recovery,” and towards “investments in supercomputing,” among others. “Over the next five years the \$2.96 billion dollar investments for NOAA laid out in this legislation will improve and significantly expand equitable access to our weather and climate prediction capabilities and services; enhance coastal resilience and habitat restoration efforts, including Pacific salmon recovery; and improve our modeling capacity through investments in supercomputing.” (Lori Arguelles, “Statement from NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad on the signing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), 11/15/21)
- **“\$172 million to support recovery efforts for Pacific coastal salmon.”** (Lori Arguelles, “Statement from NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad on the signing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), 11/15/21)

**The bill exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in over four decades:**

*Editor's Note:* To see most recent inflation numbers, please see the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly [data](#).

- **In March 2022, inflation reached its highest levels in over 40 years.** “Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years... Inflation surged again in March, as consumer prices hit yet another fresh peak not seen in a generation. Why it matters: The relentless rise in prices is a challenge for investors, Federal Reserve policy makers and politicians, who are all trying to navigate an inflationary backdrop that hasn't been seen since the early 1980s. Driving the news: The consumer price index rose 1.2% in March compared to February, above economists expectations for 1.1%. Prices were up 8.5% over the last year, higher than the 8.4% rise that economists expected, according to consensus expectations reported by FactSet. That's the highest annual rate of inflation since December 1981.” (Matt Phillips, “Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years,” [Axios](#), 4/12/22)



(Rachel Siegel, “Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy,” [Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)

- **According to the Heritage Foundation, Biden’s infrastructure bill contributed to the worst inflation surge in decades.** “The harmful effects of excessive government spending have become the most pressing issue for Americans due to the worst inflation surge in decades. Washington’s reckless choice to pump trillions of dollars into the economy is the reason we face more inflation than other top economies around the world. Yet, incredibly, Congress is still planning an onslaught of additional inflationary spending bills with seemingly no end in sight... Compared to projections from February 2021, when Biden had just taken office, the latest analysis shows a combined \$2.77 trillion in additional deficits over the 2021-2031 period. The largest factor for this increase was the wasteful and opportunistic \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 package that passed with exclusively Democratic

support in March 2021. The shoddy \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that Biden championed added even more red ink.” (David Ditch, “New Charts Reveal Harms of Biden’s Budget-Busting Binge,” [The Heritage Foundation](#), 6/8/22)

### **Additional government spending caused a rise in the prices of goods:**

- **CNN BUSINESS HEADLINE: “All that stimulus is sending inflation higher”** (Anneken Tappe, “All that stimulus is sending inflation higher,” [CNN Business](#), 4/9/21)
- **Stimulus checks caused additional spending, decreasing supply, and driving up prices.** “Supply bottlenecks have occurred because companies were caught flat-footed by the speed of the economic recovery from the pandemic, with most consumers flush with cash, after multiple stimulus checks, and spending freely. With everyone now ramping up at once, manufacturers, shipping firms, miners and agricultural companies can’t keep up.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [AP](#), 5/12/21)
- **Consumer goods prices are up.** “Gas prices are rising. Auto prices are soaring. Consumer goods companies are charging more for household basics like toilet paper, peanut butter, and soft drinks.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [AP](#), 5/12/21)
- **“Food companies like Campbell Soup, Kraft Heinz and Mondelez have all announced higher prices on items.”** “Food companies like Campbell Soup, Kraft Heinz and Mondelez have all announced higher prices on items that include soup, macaroni and cheese, crackers, and cookies, and Dollar Tree announced it’s hiking prices on most products to \$1.25.” (Rachel Siegel, “Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy,” [Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)