

Rouzer's Roadblock is a BFD

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 11.18.21

President Biden just passed his historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework: one of the largest infrastructure investments in American history. That's a "BFD"—a Big F(ramework)ing Deal! It will help enormously in meeting North Carolina's urgent infrastructure needs. That's why our Republican senators, Burr and Tillis, voted for it. President Biden fulfilled his campaign pledge and did what Trump could not. He brought together 69 senators, including 19 Republicans, and overcame partisan roadblocks by opponents like our Congressman, David Rouzer.

Brunswick County is the fastest growing county in NC, and part of the fastest growing metro area in the US. Explosive growth in new home construction is obvious throughout the region, and will accelerate after COVID. It's impact on infrastructure dominated recent local elections. All those homes and people will make enormous demands on our water and waste facilities, electric power grid and internet capacity. Everyone knows we need major investments in roads, bridges, transportation, and airports. Biden's "BFD" will help us pay for it. Even so, Rouzer voted "NO".

From 2010 to 2020, North Carolina suffered 42 extreme storms, costing the state up to \$50 billion in damages. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew killed 28 people. In 2018, Hurricane Florence killed 43. Hurricane Isaias devastated coastal Brunswick County in 2020. Biden's "BFD" is the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural systems in American history. It includes \$12 billion to counter the effects of flooding, strengthen our coastlines, and protect endangered communities like ours. Still, Rouzer voted "NO".

Will he dare to show up with a camera and claim credit when Biden's infrastructure projects break ground? Let's hope not. Because, when we needed him most, Congressman Rouzer failed us. We needed roads, but he gave us roadblocks.

That's a "BFD"—a Big Fail, Dave.

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