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**OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)**

**Thursday, April 6, 2017**

Speaker: The Honourable Geoff Regan

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**Infrastructure**

**Ms. Dianne L. Watts (South Surrey—White Rock, CPC):**

Mr. Speaker, municipalities across Canada are desperate for infrastructure funding. The Liberals have a new hallmark infrastructure fund of a quarter of a billion dollars slated for essential infrastructure. Unfortunately, it is in Asia, going to the Asian infrastructure bank, a bank that the Conservative government and the Obama administration declined to join because it was not in the best interests of taxpayers.

Why are the Liberals wasting taxpayer dollars in China instead of funding essential infrastructure in Canadian communities?

**Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau (Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Lib.):**

Mr. Speaker, for two years we looked at how the new Asian infrastructure bank operates. We concluded that it was a good way to fund development projects in the poorest and most vulnerable countries. For example, it has funded a drinking water supply project in Indonesia and an electrification project in Bangladesh.