

**Chairman Graves Statement on the Committee's Budget  
Submission:**

- Thank you, Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle.
- I appreciate the opportunity to share with you the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's budget request for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- In consultation with the Ranking Member, the Committee has requested an 8 percent increase over our 2022 funding levels.
- That level reflects an inflation-based increase and will provide the Committee with the necessary resources to tackle our aggressive legislative and oversight agenda for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- On the legislative front, the Committee already has begun discussions on reauthorizing several major agencies and programs under the Committee's vast jurisdiction.
- These include the following:
  - The Coast Guard for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025;

- **The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA);**
- **The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is leading the investigation into the recent Ohio freight train derailment;**
- **The Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC);**
- **And the Committee's biggest undertaking, the reauthorization of the FAA, which is set to expire on October 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **The Committee also plans to undertake the regular review of Army Corps projects and programs in 2024.**
- **Equally important, the Committee must provide oversight over the many laws and funding that was passed last Congress including the following:**
  - ***Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act;***
  - ***Inflation Reduction Act***
  - ***American Rescue Plan (COVID relief bill); and***
  - ***CHIPS Act***
- **These laws represent nearly \$1 trillion in spending across every area of the Committee's jurisdiction, from the DOT to the GSA to FEMA and the Coast Guard.**

- **The American people expect us to ensure this Administration spends those dollars wisely and according to the law and there is a shared interest in conducting oversight.**
- **As part of that oversight effort, the Committee plans a robust travel agenda that will include official field hearings and also oversight of infrastructure projects and programs.**
- **Infrastructure impacts every corner of the country, and each community has diverse needs. We intend to get out there and see that firsthand.**
- **In addition, the budget accounts for the fact that the staff salary cap was raised last Congress and the Committee is lucky to have many long tenured staffers with vast institutional knowledge.**
- **Our proposed budget will help the Committee with staff retention but also allows us to be competitive in bringing on new staff to deliver on our legislative and oversight agenda this Congress.**
- **With that, I look forward to answering your questions and I yield back the remainder of my time.**