

THE HONORABLE RICK LARSEN
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and distinguished Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to join Chairman Graves in presenting the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's budget request for the 118th Congress.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has a long history of bipartisan cooperation, with both sides realizing the importance of investing in our Nation's infrastructure, ensuring the safety of our transportation systems and creating jobs. I expect that cooperation to continue under Chairman Graves' leadership.

In the 117th Congress, we passed bipartisan legislation authorizing the U.S. Coast Guard and the fifth consecutive and bipartisan Water Resources Development Act.

We also acted decisively to bolster our economy and limit the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, while modernizing and transforming the way people and goods move, with the passage of several landmark bills: the American Rescue Plan, the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Part of the Committee's focus this year will be oversight of these bills—particularly the BIL—to ensure the funds we have provided are being used for their intended purposes. I look forward to working with Chairman Graves to do just that.

As Chairman Graves noted, we have a full legislative agenda for the 118th Congress. First and foremost, we must pass legislation reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration before the end of September.

The Committee also intends to reauthorize the National Transportation Safety Board, U.S. Coast Guard, Maritime Administration, Federal Maritime Commission, and the Pipeline and the Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's pipeline safety programs.

For us to do our jobs for the American people, we request that you fund the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at a modest increase of eight percent over our 2022 funding level. This funding will be used to ensure we can retain the oversight and infrastructure specialists who can help us achieve our objectives and accommodate a significant increase in travel costs due to a lack of travel during the past few years.

The Committee has a robust and bipartisan travel plan to include both domestic and international travel that will help inform our legislative agenda and allow for greater oversight of the projects and programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As in the past, the Committee will continue to provide two-thirds of the personnel budget to the Majority, and one-third to the Minority. The non-personnel budget, like the travel budget, will continue to be shared fairly between the Majority and Minority.

I look forward to a strong partnership with Chairman Graves in the 118th Congress. With your help, I know the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will achieve our shared objectives and be one of the most productive committees in Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.