

T&I Member Day Talking Points

Introduction

- As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I know firsthand that high-quality transportation infrastructure is a necessity for the daily operations of America's farmers, ranchers and producers
- In rural farming communities, functioning roads and bridges are essential to the successful transportation of goods to market during harvest season

T&I Committee Priorities

- Highway bill that improves America's interstate transportation infrastructure should be top priority for committee
 - Bill should not be a multitrillion dollar catch all
 - The more expansive the bill becomes – testing the true definition of infrastructure – the more bipartisan agreement suffers
- It will be critical to ensure fair distribution between rural and urban areas
- Transportation bill needs to be about roads and bridges, not a vehicle for pushing socialist Green New Deal policies
- President Biden's plan does not make any investment in biofuels infrastructure, instead it provides \$174 billion in electric vehicle infrastructure
 - Nationwide E15 infrastructure coupled with investment in biofuels refineries will lead to lower emissions at a fraction of the cost
- Core programs include:
 - Roads, bridges, airports, rails, ports
- Need to invest taxpayers' money wisely
 - Unprecedented spending levels of the stimulus bill earlier this year and Democrats' current infrastructure proposal

Rep. Hagedorn's Priorities

- Southern Minnesota transportation priorities are the basics:
 - Roads and bridges
 - Locks and dams
 - To ensure locks and dams in Winona and Houston Counties are upgraded
 - Necessary for grain, and other goods, to travel up the Mississippi River
 - Rails, pipelines, and trucks
 - Pipelines, such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, are more efficient in moving crude oil
 - Revoking Keystone XL's permit forces crude oil to be transported via other methods which are:
 - Less safe
 - Less efficient
 - Less environmentally friendly

- I would encourage Biden Administration to reconsider its ruling on Keystone XL, especially given the high wage union jobs the project creates

- **Important southern Minnesota projects:**
 - Alleviate traffic congestion in downtown Rochester
 - Key to the expansion of the Mayo Clinic and welcoming patients from far and wide to the world's highest quality medical institution
 - “Medical tourism”
 - Regional Airports
 - Upgrade lighting system and runways
 - Mayo clinic handles millions of tests, samples, transplant materials, life-saving medical technologies, etc.
 - Busy airports in Minnesota without control towers
 - Runway repaving, readjusting, and reconstruction

- Last Congress:
 - Worked in bipartisan fashion with Governor Walz, Minnesota Department of Transportation, the State Legislature, and the Trump Administration to procure federal grant money, paired with state funds, to expand the Highway 14 corridor across southern Minnesota from two to four lanes.
 - Project was 50 years in the making
 - Major safety improvement
 - Helps with economic vitality of the region
 - Southern MN cities will have easier access, safety, and economic development
 - Prime example of how bipartisan cooperation can achieve real results in the infrastructure space

Conclusion

- Thank you for your time today and I look forward to continued conversations, cooperation, and work toward a bipartisan agreement that will help repair roads, bridges, and other means of transportation for the safety and economic opportunity of the American people