

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Testimony

- Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, thank you for having me here today.
- As you look to develop surface transportation legislation, I ask that you recognize the importance of federal-aid highways in rural states and the vital role they play not only in my community, but nationally.
- Federal-aid highways are the life blood of Montana's economies, serving interstate commerce, tourism, and they provide vital connections for people and business from all over the country.
- Montana's agriculture, natural resources, and energy industries rely heavily on strong highway systems to provide access to domestic and international markets.
- The state of Montana has 73,648 miles of road, of which they rely heavily on federal funding as we have one of the lowest population bases in the country.
- I ask that you recognize the benefits of investment in highways in rural states and the unique challenges faced by states with long stretches of road and few people to support them.
- Furthermore, I ask that the committee consider legislation to invest in our nation's infrastructure, and I urge you to include bipartisan language that authorizes the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- As you know, on his first day in office President Biden issued an Executive Order revoking the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.
- I urge you to consider the lasting impacts this policy will have on Montana taxpayers and local economies.
- The Keystone XL pipeline would cross the United States-Canadian border in Philips County, MT
- This project would provide 12,000 jobs to the surrounding areas and has already created 200 jobs in Montana alone.

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- Therefore, stimulating local economies and creating additional jobs to support these workers.
- The Keystone XL pipeline would generate tens of millions of dollars in tax revenues for local communities, including county governments and school districts.
- In fact, the project would provide \$26 million per year in combined tax revenue to 6 Montana counties.
- The president's decision to cancel the permit, will eliminate 3,700 Montana based construction jobs that would have garnered \$127 million in employment earning.
- This project would benefit historically poorer, rural areas.
- I urge the committee to take up bipartisan language that authorizes the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- Thank you for allowing me to come before the committee to discuss Montana's priorities.
- I yield my time.