

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
Member Day Hearing

Testimony of the Honorable Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

March 16, 2022

Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves: thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Illinois' 15th District.

On behalf of my constituents, I would like to highlight the need to improve our nation's traditional infrastructure – such as revitalizing our bridges and dams and facilitating commerce. This is why I wish the infrastructure bill was passed, fully focused on traditional infrastructure.

I especially want to emphasize the need for continued work on Lock and Dam 25 in my district.

Illinois' economy is diverse, as it is supported by agriculture, energy, and manufacturing. These industries require a robust transportation network to get products to market. Nearly every bushel of soybeans, corn, and other grain transported along the Mississippi River from Illinois will pass through Lock and Dam 25.

I appreciated President Trump's support for traditional infrastructure, and specifically, for the Upper Mississippi Locks 20-25. Completing Lock and Dam 25 is critically important to grain handlers and agricultural exporters in my district and will increase U.S. agricultural competitiveness as a whole.

I ask that the Committee bear these priorities in mind when developing the Water Resources Development Act and keep radical, Green New Deal priorities out of the bill, especially as we face \$5 per gallon for gasoline.

Again, I thank you for your consideration and the chance to speak to you today. As a member of the Agriculture Committee, I look forward to working with your committee to address these issues that are critically important to my fellow farmers.