

Thank you, Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and members of the Committee for the invitation to speak with you all today.

I have the great honor of representing Minnesota's Third Congressional District, which includes the western Twin Cities metro area. We are a proud, diverse, , and hardworking community. We are national leaders in healthcare, small business ownership, hockey fandom and of course, in Minnesota Nice.

Today, however, I must be blunt with you. Few know this, but Minnesota is one of just eight states to pay more in federal taxes than it brings back in support. In 2019, that amounted to Minnesotans sending an extra \$1.8 billion to Washington. In contrast, the average state *receives* from the federal government nearly \$16 billion more than it pays each year.

That imbalance has had a profound impact on my district, and nowhere is it felt more strongly than in our infrastructure. I have met with leadership from every city and town in Minnesota's Third, and far too often I find that I am repeating myself:

*“Yes, our communities need 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure to compete.”*

*“Yes, Congress has been complacent on this issue for far too long.”*

*“And yes, I will demand action on behalf of our state.”*

I am here today to honor my promise and urge your support for a comprehensive infrastructure package.

In Minnesota, there are more than 650 bridges and nearly 5,000 miles of highway in poor condition. Not only is poor road repair an economic disaster – costing my constituents nearly \$400

million each year – but it is a hazard to public health. As traffic fatalities surge statewide, we need a comprehensive approach to address surface transportation in Minnesota.

Water and wastewater infrastructure is another priority for communities in my district. As local officials have made clear to me, sustainable water infrastructure not only ensures safe drinking water and a clean environment, but also strengthens local economies. Experts say that Minnesota will need to invest \$7.5 billion to overhaul its aged and overburdened water systems, and support from Congress will be critical to ensure that transition happens as swiftly as possible.

Another growing concern, especially following the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, is the need for high-speed broadband in suburban, exurban, and rural districts like mine. Whether it's a student learning online or an employee logging on to a virtual

meeting, our communities need better broadband infrastructure to thrive in our increasingly interconnected world.

I want to close with another sentiment I have heard from leaders in my district, Democrats and Republicans alike. Our communities' infrastructure needs go beyond roads, bridges, and pipes. Infrastructure is about resiliency. It's about modernization. It encompasses everything from climate change mitigation to addressing our country's mental health crisis. At its core, infrastructure is about investing in our future. In the aftermath of a once-in-a-generation catastrophe, it's time to come together and make that investment.

Thank you.