

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good Afternoon. I am Cal Klewin, Executive Director of the **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association**.

The **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway** (Highway 85) is a Federally-Designated High Priority Corridor on the National Highway System. It runs from Rapid City, SD, to Canada through the Port of Raymond in Montana. On the southern end, it connects to the Heartland Expressway, which connects Rapid City, SD, to Denver, CO. The Heartland Expressway then links to the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor, which connects Denver, CO, to Laredo, TX. These three corridors are collectively known as the Ports-to-Plains Alliance.

The **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway**--separately and as part of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance--is critical to the economy and quality of life of North Dakota, of the Great Plains region, and of the Nation.

Congressman Bill Shuster, the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, in an article in *Roll Call* discussing his transportation agenda, described well why corridors like the **TR Expressway** are critical, and I quote:

*Transportation is important. It's about people and how they live their lives. How they get to work, get their children to school, go to stores to buy food, clothing and other necessities, and how they visit family and friends.*

*It's also about business. Transportation is a critical part of how the supply chain functions, how raw materials get to factories, how finished products get to markets, how food gets from farms to our kitchens, and how energy products move from production areas to consuming areas. An efficient national transportation network allows businesses to lower transportation costs, which lowers production costs and enhances productivity and profits. It allows American businesses to be competitive in the global marketplace and for our economy to prosper and grow. One need only to look at our Interstate Highway System to see how investment in our national transportation network has benefited our nation and spawned tremendous economic growth.*

*And it is about America. Our national transportation system binds us together as a nation. As President Eisenhower observed, without the unifying force of transportation, "we would be a mere alliance of many separate parts."*

The **Theodore Roosevelt Expressway** and the Ports-to-Plains Alliance are great examples of what Chairman Shuster is describing. They are an essential part of America's national transportation network. The energy industry is a major user of the entire corridor, moving people, product and equipment along the entire corridor that serves not only the Bakken region, but also the Niobrara, Permian, Eagle Ford and Cline regions across North America. Strengthening that network to make North Dakota and America more efficient, more competitive, and more prosperous must be a priority for all levels of government and the private sector.

I know this Committee is fully aware of the immediate infrastructure needs in our state. Today, you have approaches to help modernize North Dakota's surface transportation system.

**Therefore, the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association supports this Committee's use of Oil and Gas production tax revenue to provide for major improvements to U.S. 85 in North Dakota.**

That concludes my testimony, I will try to answer any questions you may have.

Thank You,

Cal Klewin

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