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United States Senate

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer:

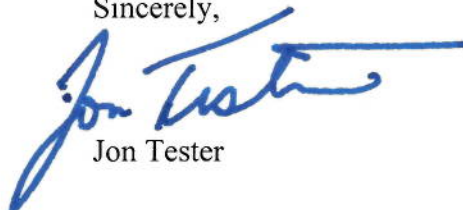
I write to express my concern about the lack of urgency to pass a bill that makes meaningful investments in our nation's infrastructure. Earlier this week, a member of Senate leadership expressed doubt that Congress will be able to complete its work on an infrastructure bill by the end of the year, saying it would be difficult due to a lack of time. This is disheartening considering the lack of urgency in the Senate and the glaring need to address our crumbling roads, bridges and water systems. Congress must use the remainder of this session to listen to constituents, work across the aisle, and write an infrastructure plan that sets the course for another generation of American leadership in the global economy.

I meet face-to-face with Montanans every week who share examples about the immense demand for improving rural infrastructure. Our roads and bridges need to be upgraded to improve commerce, increase efficiency and enhance safety. Our schools need to install new boilers and roofs, water systems need to be updated, and affordable broadband access needs to be universal. America faces an incredible challenge to bring our infrastructure into the 21st Century, but with the right tools and resources, I am confident that American workers are up to the task.

Any infrastructure plan must make direct federal investments into our local communities, especially in rural America. Local governments in Montana do a tremendous job stretching scarce resources into critical infrastructure projects. It is unrealistic, however, to expect the investments required to ensure our interstate commerce system remains the envy of the world to come mostly from state and local governments. It is also unrealistic to install toll roads in rural state like Montana as some initial plans have suggested. That is why Congress must come together to start writing a bill that will work for the entire country.

I firmly believe there is time to complete an infrastructure plan this year. I stand ready to work with leadership, to convey the infrastructure ideas I hear from Montanans to my colleagues, and to get a bill to the President's desk. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

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