

4/02/2004 House Passes Federal Highway Bill

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Includes Funding for Kansas Roads, Bridges, Highways

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced House passage of the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, H.R. 3550, which authorizes funding for federal highways, public transportation programs and safety initiatives. In Kansas, this bill would invest more than \$2.1 billion in transportation programs over the next six years, and it is estimated that it will create and sustain about 95,000 jobs throughout the state. A conference committee will now work out the differences between the House and Senate-passed versions of the bill.

"This legislation is about jobs in Kansas and across the nation," Moran said. "The funding in this bill allows us to create and maintain our transportation infrastructure, giving us the ability to move manufactured goods to market and sell our agriculture commodities around the globe in a cost-effective, efficient way. Infrastructure investment is an additional way to fight the outsourcing of jobs."

In addition to providing new funding for Kansas infrastructure, this legislation contains provisions that would provide more flexibility in federal Hours of Service regulations for truck drivers engaged in transport of agriculture commodities and farm supplies, operators of groundwater well-drilling rigs, and utility service vehicle operators. This flexibility will help these industries continue to provide essential services and enable them to respond in a safe and timely manner. Also included in this legislation is a proposal to restructure and extend the ethanol tax incentive.

"The renewal of the ethanol credit is great news for Kansas, not only because it makes ethanol gasoline more competitively priced, but because it creates yet another market for Kansas-grown commodities," Moran said. "In a difficult economic time for our state, this legislation ensures more jobs for Kansas workers as well as providing safer highways, roads and bridges for everyone traveling in our state."

Moran is a member of the House Transportation Committee.

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