

April 18, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick
3411 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Rarick,

My name is Brenda Nyberg, and I am a life-long resident of Cromwell, Minnesota, a small city at the intersection of State Highways 210 and 73, within your district. I drive a treacherous stretch of Highway 73 south of Cromwell every day on my way to and from work, to get my three boys to and from Cromwell-Wright School, and for almost every errand I run, event I attend, or person I visit. In all, I have been traveling this dangerous road for 47 years. I am writing to plead that the Highway 73 road reconstruction project FINALLY gets the funding it is due via the newly-passed Infrastructure Bill.

In my 47 years, I myself have been involved in two accidents on the stretch of highway between Cromwell and Kettle River to the south. One as an infant and another when I was in my 20's. My father was nearly killed on this highway. I have witnessed more accidents and near-accidents than I can even count. The road is narrow, winding in places, has no shoulder, deep ditches, blind intersections, and is a main artery of many, many large trucks that increase the dangers already naturally present. Never in a million years would I allow my children to ride bike or take a walk on this highway however we have no choice but to drive it. If you want to experience this Russian Roulette game we've been playing, take a drive on East or West Four Corners Road (Carlton County Road 123) and try to pull out onto Highway 73 heading south. You won't even be able to see the car coming from the north until it's kissing your bumper.

This section of highway was slated for reconstruction to fix these dangers years ago! Unfortunately, that funding was funneled elsewhere in Northeastern Minnesota and the folks that travel this gauntlet have been left to dodge bullets year after year. With the funding being made available to states in the recently passed Infrastructure Bill, it is imperative that this essential project that was cast to the wayside years ago (and every year since), be funded as it was supposed to be. It is disgusting that the money earmarked for this project was siphoned away and was never replaced. This is our chance to finally have our highway fixed; for our residents, our school bus drivers, our commuters, our visitors, and even our poor mail carrier who puts his life on the line every day!

I respectfully ask that you to encourage a portion of the Infrastructure Bill funding be designated for the Highway 73 (south of Cromwell) road construction project so it can be completed once and for all. We have been waiting years, decades even. This is the opportunity we have to seize.

Sincerely,

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