

**Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Hearing on the Condition of our Nation's Infrastructure and
Proposal for Needed Improvements**

**Statement of Senator Michael B. Enzi
March 11, 2008**

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate you holding this hearing. Over the last several years, we have seen the terrible effects of infrastructure neglect. Construction costs continue to increase and the basic toll of use impacts infrastructure nationwide.

A real investment into our nation's infrastructure may be the necessary next step. I am concerned, however, that in legislation introduced by the Chairman, a project must have a potential federal share of at least \$75 million to be eligible for assistance. Transportation and housing projects of that scope are rare in Wyoming and many other rural states. Our states have infrastructure needs that are significant compared to our population, interstate commerce, and travel. Our states' transportation departments try to meet the demands and yet in less populated areas, projects are likely to be less expensive than in metropolitan areas. Legislation passed by the Senate should not inadvertently encourage states to delay investment because the cost of initial action is less than \$75 million, nor should it ignore the role of rural states in country's travel and commerce.

As we review infrastructure investment issues, I want to address how the proposed approaches recognize the needs of a rural state like Wyoming, and not limit the attention to the needs of larger states and metropolitan areas. I look forward to working with the Chairman and all members of this committee on ways to improve our nation's infrastructure for the entire country.