

NEWS from the T&I DEMOCRATS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Democratic Caucus

U.S. House of Representatives, 2163 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515

www.house.gov/transportation_democrats

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Oberstar Sees Challenges Ahead for the New Democratic Majority on T&I

DULUTH, Minn.—The Ranking Democrat and likely next Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee today outlined his objectives for the Committee in the 110th Congress.

Rep. James L. Oberstar (Minn.), spoke at a news conference in Duluth, Minnesota, the day after he won reelection to a 17th term, and Democrats nationwide captured the majority of seats in the House of Representatives.

"I feel like Moses coming out of the desert after 40 years," Oberstar joked.

Looking ahead to Committee action in the next Congress, Oberstar said he hoped the spirit of bipartisanship that has traditionally characterized the work of the Committee would continue

"We've won the majority. The challenge now is to govern. I'm looking forward to the partnership we built in the T&I Committee like we have had in the past. It's not about Democratic roads or Republican bridges. If we work together we can build American roads and American bridges," Oberstar said.

Oberstar laid out the following agenda items for his Committee in the next Congress:

- Pass the Water Resources Development Act, if the current Congress fails to do so in the upcoming post-election session. Accelerate the dredging of harbors in the Great Lakes and move ahead with the second lock at Sault Ste. Marie. Move ahead also with the bi-national authority between the US and Canada for operation of the St. Lawrence Seaway, providing one set of staff, fees, and regulations for users of the system.
- Renew the state revolving loan fund for wastewater systems and sewage treatment plants.

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- Reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration, ensure the integrity of the Aviation Trust Fund, and make sure that the airports in our smaller communities have the resources they need to compete.
- Work to make the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the effective agency it was during the Clinton Administration.
- Deal with port security - the Achilles' heel of homeland security.

“The new Democratic majority has to show that we are capable of leading. That means keeping the House in session 4-5 days a week. No more midnight bills. More transparency. Hold hearings on issues that are important to the public. Open the books. Invoke the power of the Congress. Provide more oversight,” Oberstar said. “We need to restore the public's trust and confidence in the government once again.”

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