



Nebraska Farmers Union

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Hansen and Bolz Represent Nebraska on White House webinar on “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”

LINCOLN (April 22, 2022) – Nebraska Farmers Union (NeFU) President John Hansen and USDA Nebraska Rural Development Director Kate Bolz were the two presenters from Nebraska on Earth Day at a White House virtual briefing highlighting the Nebraska benefits from “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”.

Nebraska Rural Development Director Bolz described the “nuts and bolts” infrastructure issues she helps rural Nebraskans with as needs arise. She discussed a small town water delivery problem that will benefit from the additional funding in the new bipartisan supported infrastructure bill. Bolz also discussed the benefits of expanded weatherization program funding, and the need for additional funding for infrastructure needs.

Hansen said “The passage of the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” was supported by Nebraska farm organizations because the need for the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century was obvious. Hansen highlighted the following new additional investments in Nebraska infrastructure:

- \$2 billion for 1,125 miles of poor condition roads and 1,302 outdated and unsafe bridges
- \$100 million to help deploy high speed internet broadband across our deficient state
- \$16.8 million over five years to protect against wildfires
- \$12.7 million to protect against cyberattacks

Links for more information about the “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”: Sharing also the BIL Rural Playbook: https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/rural/?utm_source=build.gov

Nebraska Fact Sheet: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NEBRASKA_Infrastructure-Investment-and-Jobs-Act-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Hansen noted the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” was right down the middle of the plate of issues his organization have been working on for years including the need to build and repair roads and bridges, climate mitigation, reliable high-speed internet, and cyberattacks. He mentioned the historic wildfire that had damaged thousands of acres in south central Nebraska, historic 500 year floods in 2019 and the need to take our changing climate into consideration as we build back better and smarter.

Nebraska Farmers Union is a general farm organization with 3,841 farm and ranch family members dedicated to protecting and enhancing the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers, and their rural communities. Since 1913, Nebraska Farmers Union has helped organize over 445 cooperatives.