

**Congressman Moolenaar Transportation and Infrastructure
Member Day Remarks**

January 14, 2026

Thank you, Chairman Graves, for hosting this member day and providing me with the opportunity to address the Committee.

Mr. Chairman, as an avid aviation enthusiast, I know you appreciate the importance of infrastructure investment and modernization of airports.

As infrastructure ages, investment is needed to ensure the safety of aviation and provide the best service possible to U.S. travelers.

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport, which sits in Rep. Scholten's district but services many of my constituents, has been making such investments by building new facilities and expanding to meet the ever-growing demand of the region.

However, one issue they have run into is the aging Air Traffic Control Tower, which was built in the 1960's and is the oldest tower among the nation's 75 busiest airports.

While its age is impacting ATC operations, the current placement of the tower has also limited the scope of airport improvement projects due to line of sight issues.

To address these concerns, the airport has begun the process of designing a new tower.

It is my sincere hope, Mr. Chairman, that with this tower investment, we can make GRR at least as good as Tarkio [*TAR-KEY-OH*], though we would admittedly still lack the famed Wing Nuts.

To that end, I ask that the Committee continue to work to ensure that regional airports receive the financial support they need to upgrade aging infrastructure, and to specifically keep GRR's tower in mind for any future legislation.

Another project that I would like to highlight, Mr. Chairman, is the ongoing work FEMA is doing in my district in response to the 2020 catastrophic dam failures that caused over \$190 million dollars' worth of damage across the region.

The Midland Center for the Arts, a cultural and community hub in my district that suffered over \$9 million dollars in damage. To date, the Center has secured FEMA funding to restore 4 of the center's 5 buildings and is awaiting approval for the final building – the Doan building.

Rep. McDonald Rivet and I have been in close communication with FEMA Region 5 over the issue, and while it is moving in the right direction, I respectfully ask that you and your staff work with FEMA to expedite the release of funding for the final building so that this important community hub can be restored to its proper state.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I want to highlight the Army Corps of Engineers Tittabawassee River Watershed General Investigations Study.

Currently, the study is on a 3x3 contract. However, recent developments have revealed that the project needs more time and additional funding, prompting the community to seek a waiver to update the project to a 4x5 format.

It is my understanding that this waiver is currently moving through the Corps' chain of command, and I would appreciate any effort you could make to support this waiver and push this project over the finish line.

Thank you, again, Chairman Graves, for the leadership you have demonstrated on this committee, and for the investment you have made in this country's infrastructure.

I appreciate the opportunity to highlight these critical projects before you and the committee. I yield back.