

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8188

To remove certain limitations with respect to road grading under Tribal transportation programs and study the impacts of such removal, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2026

Mr. STANTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To remove certain limitations with respect to road grading under Tribal transportation programs and study the impacts of such removal, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Roads Improve-
5 ment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Approximately 160,000 miles of roads exist
2 on or provide access to Tribal lands, with an esti-
3 mated 65 percent in poor or failing condition.

4 (2) Inadequate road grading on Tribal lands
5 contributes to increased vehicle damage, emergency
6 response delays, reduced economic development op-
7 portunities, and isolation of Tribal communities.

8 (3) Poor road conditions disproportionately im-
9 pact Tribal members' access to healthcare, edu-
10 cation, employment, and essential services.

11 (4) Current Federal funding for Tribal road
12 maintenance addresses less than 35 percent of iden-
13 tified needs.

14 (5) Tribal governments possess the capacity
15 and expertise to manage road grading projects effi-
16 ciently when provided adequate resources and regu-
17 latory flexibility.

18 (6) Improving Tribal road infrastructure serves
19 Federal trust responsibilities and promotes Tribal
20 self-determination.

21 **SEC. 3. TRIBAL ROAD GRADING.**

22 Section 202(a)(8)(A) of title 23, United States Code,
23 is amended by inserting “grading and” after “excluding
24 road”.

1 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall con-
4 duct a study to determine the impact of removing the limi-
5 tation on TTP road grading funds pursuant to the amend-
6 ment made by section 3, including—

7 (1) the number of Indian Tribes spending, with
8 respect to road grading, at least—

9 (A) 25 percent of the TTP funds allocated
10 to the Indian Tribe; or

11 (B) \$500,000;

12 (2) the number of miles of Tribal roads graded
13 after the removal of the limitation;

14 (3) improvements in road condition ratings on
15 participating Tribal transportation facilities;

16 (4) impacts on Tribal economic development,
17 emergency response times, and community access;

18 (5) Tribal satisfaction with flexibility provided
19 by the removal of the limitation; and

20 (6) employment of Tribal members in Tribal
21 road grading projects.

22 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
23 after the completion of the study under subsection (a), the
24 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that in-
25 cludes—

26 (1) the results of the study; and

1 (2) recommendations with respect to addressing
2 the continued need to Tribal road grading and ways
3 to support Tribal road grading initiatives.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
7 rector of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

8 (2) TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY.—The
9 term “Tribal transportation facility” has the mean-
10 ing given the term “tribal transportation facility” in
11 section 101 of title 23, United States Code.

12 (3) TTP.—The term “TTP” means a tribal
13 transportation program as such term is used in
14 chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code.

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