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Glasgow Air Force Base Road and Bureau of Reclamation Transmission Line

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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GLASGOW AIR FORCE BASE ROAD AND
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TRANSMISSION LINE

There are two projects here in Valley County which I hope your Congressional Delegation can make some material progress on this year. Both the need for major improvements on the Glasgow Air Force Base Road and the relocation of Bureau of Reclamation's transmission line have been of major concern to the Glasgow community and to those of us in Congress for some time now.

The Air Force's Strategic Air Command base here at Glasgow is a major installation of considerable importance to the Nation's defense and the economic stability of north central Montana. The construction and operation of a military installation of this magnitude creates a number of benefits as well as problems. One of the most difficult has been the maintenance and improvement of the highway from Glasgow to the Air Base. The Air Force recognizes its responsibilities but there are certain statutory limitations on how much they can contribute in funds. In view of the fact that this road was not a major highway before the construction of the base makes the allocation of costs even more difficult. This involves considerations on the part of the County, State, Bureau of Public Roads, and Department of the Air Force.

Both Senator Lee Metcalf and I have initiated new inquiries insisting that something be worked out whereby the Air Force can contribute a large portion of the cost. We hope that we can have a favorable report in the not too distant future.

Insofar as the relocation of the Bureau of Reclamation's transmission line away from a new residential area of Glasgow is concerned, this is a matter of extreme urgency. All interested persons recognize the situation, particularly the Bureau of Reclamation. This hazardous situation cannot be prolonged.

Now that I am a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, it is my hope that something can be done this year to make funds available so that the Bureau can relocate the transmission line. Before I left Washington, Senator Matcalf and I had some preliminary conversations with the Committee, and we are attempting to work out something through the Public Works Appropriations Bill.

While I can not promise success at this time, you can be certain that I want to see that the Federal government assumes its public responsibility in this situation which no one could have predicted 15 years ago. I also anticipate that local interests are prepared to assist in any way possible.