



CONTACT ME

## "I've Been Everywhere, Man"

Dear Mr. Moors,

By the time last week ended in Pine City with a ribbon cutting at the new Pine Innovation Center, I was actually humming that great old Johnny Cash tune, "I've Been Everywhere."

From **Brainerd to Bigfork, International Falls, Rainer, Tower, Effie, Pine City**, and everywhere in-between, we traveled **hundreds of miles** through the Eighth District. We met with loggers, mayors, county commissioners, MnDOT planners, nurses, truck drivers, airport officials, educators, Make it in America business people, students, workers, and families. And for good measure, we drove through a good old-fashioned April snowstorm.

While my work in Washington is vital and important, the time I spend with the good folks I am so proud to represent is the best part of my job. I listen. I learn. And I remind everyone in the Eighth District that **my office is their office**.

Whether it's helping secure an Economic Development Administration grant like the one [we announced on Wednesday](#) in International Falls, assisting a vet with benefits, or hearing advice from a small business owner on ways we can **improve the tax code to help create jobs**, my staff and I are here to help fix problems, get things done, and improve the quality of life for the people we serve.

With that in mind, I hope you will take a minute to watch this TV clip about my trip in a logging truck from Grand Rapids to Big Fork over **Highway 38**. That highway needs fixing, and we're on it:



*Northland News: Nolan talks timber in Bigfork*

And If you've got a problem, a suggestion or an idea, I want to hear it. Just contact me [here](#).

Have a great week. And I hope to see you on the road.

Sincerely,

*Rick*

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## Our Week in Pictures



*I rode in a logging rig along **Highway 38** from **Grand Rapids** to **Bigfork** last week. My driver was retired logging driver Tom Moors, a **Vietnam vet and Commander of the Bigfork VFW**. In addition to surveying the highway's state of disrepair (up for reconstruction in 2017), we had a great discussion on what Congress can do to eliminate the backlog at the VA and provide our vets with the benefits they so rightfully deserve. Greeting me at my destination were members of the **Highway 38 Leadership Board** as well as officials from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to discuss with me how we can make this road safe for the loggers, tourists, local residents, and all the drivers who frequently use this route.*



*Stopped to speak at **Itasca County's Annual Township Association** meeting, where I thanked them for all the*

work they do maintaining local roads and services. Local governments are so important for the health and economic success of rural communities.



Proud to be in I-Falls to announce a **\$200,000 Economic Development Administration grant** to get residents back up and working after the devastating job losses following the restructuring of the Boise mill last year. Here I am meeting with Koochiching County and municipal officials, labor, and community business leaders to discuss local economic recovery efforts. Watch WDIO's coverage of the grant [here](#).



From left to right: retired logger and veteran (and my logging rig driver) Tom Moors, Itasca County Veteran Service Officer Hugh Quinn, and Itasca County Commissioner Terry Snyder. We stopped at the **Itasca County Veteran's Services** office before heading on the logging rig ride. For many rural vets, access to adequate, routine health care is a major challenge; I'm working on a bill in Congress that would enable veterans living in rural communities to choose their own local doctors and health providers, rather than having to drive hundreds of miles to the nearest Veterans Affairs clinic.



*Enjoyed a quick meal with some **local loggers and businessmen** at Effie Café in Effie, where we chatted about fixing up Highway 38 and what we can do to ensure our logging and timber industry continues to provide good-paying jobs for Minnesotans.*



*Visited with the dedicated staff of award-winning **Bigfork Hospital**, recently recognized as one of the **Top 10 Critical Access Hospitals in America**. A major challenge in our rural communities is access to health care - and ensuring hospitals like Bigfork maintain their high quality, 24-hour emergency care is a top priority of mine in Congress. I'm working hard to protect funding for critical access hospitals like this one throughout the Northland.*