

**STATEMENT OF MR. DENVER J. STUTLER, JR.,
NOMINEE FOR MEMBER, AMTRAK REFORM BOARD
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
DECEMBER 18, 2007**

Chairman Inouye, Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today. It is an honor to be nominated by President Bush as a member of the Amtrak Reform Board. I appreciate greatly your consideration of my nomination.

I believe that Amtrak provides an important component of our nations' overall transportation system through intercity passenger rail service. I think that as our nation considers the overall future of our transportation system, intercity passenger rail should be a part of the discussion. As a nominee from Florida, I believe there is room for improving the ridership of Amtrak, especially into and out of Florida.

I have personally traveled on Amtrak several times, once for a vacation to the Northeast and other times between Washington, DC and New York City. It has been a good experience for me. I am always amazed when I travel on Amtrak that it is not used by more people. If confirmed, one of my interests is to learn more about why people are not using Amtrak.

I believe my professional experience offers, along with the other Board members, a perspective that will provide the necessary leadership for Amtrak. If confirmed as a Board member, I will work with the Committee, Congress, the Administration and my fellow Board members to initiate and administer Amtrak's strategic direction.

I will also work to provide leadership that compliments the role of the day-to-day managers, and to ensure appropriate financial reporting is in place. Additionally, I will focus on three areas I believe to be important for Amtrak's long term success: 1) Providing on-time service, 2) On-going financial oversight, and 3) Safety.

Providing on time service is important because Amtrak is a service provider. Providing reliable service requires constant monitoring and continually seeking the best practices to achieve the best service.

On-going financial oversight is especially important in the stewardship of public resources. Continued financial oversight is critical for an efficient operation and to maintain the confidence of taxpayers and Congress.

Safety requires continual attention and focus from leadership. The safety of employees, travelers and the public are critical for the long term viability of Amtrak.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to be before you here today. I would be happy to answer any questions.