



**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION**
Senator Maria Cantwell, Chair

**U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Executive Session**

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Opening Statement

[VIDEO](#)

Senator Cantwell: Good morning. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will come to order. This is an Executive Session today to consider the nomination of J. Todd Inman to be the National Transportation Safety Board member and critical promotions to the United States Coast Guard.

The NTSB is our transportation safety watchdog, ensuring that both the transportation industry and the U.S. Department of Transportation are putting safety first.

NTSB investigates civil transportation accidents, provides recommendations to improve safety regulations and assists victims and survivors of transportation disasters.

The NTSB has approximately 400 employees in Washington, D.C., and in regional field offices and has the same number of employees since 1997 and recent budget increases have only covered mandated salary increases for the existing workforce.

Additional resources are needed to prepare for current and future transportation safety challenges.

Previously, Mr. Inman served at the DOT as the Director of Operations, then as Deputy Chief of Staff, and finally spent over two years as the Chief of Staff for Secretary Chao.

Additionally, Mr. Inman has experience as an arson investigator for an insurance company. His unique background provides him with knowledge of both the investigations process and experience.

We will also consider several promotions in the U.S. Coast Guard.