

**STATEMENT OF DONNA McLEAN
NOMINEE FOR THE AMTRAK REFORM BOARD**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES SENATE**

June 8, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Inouye and Members of the Committee. It is an honor for me to appear before you today and to have been nominated by President Bush to serve on the Amtrak Reform Board. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee on Amtrak issues.

All of my career, including 15 years of federal service, I have focused on transportation policy. Over these years, we have all seen our transportation systems become more and more congested.

More recently, we have seen a significant leap in oil prices. It is unclear how the increasing transportation congestion, along with the increase in fuel prices will reshape our transportation system. However, these dynamics mean that the viability of our inter-city passenger rail system is more important than ever.

If confirmed, I look forward to helping Amtrak better position itself to play an improved role in our transportation network.

Amtrak, the business, has made some significant strides over the past several years. Amtrak is now following general accepted accounting principles (GAAP); Amtrak is investing more in its capital needs; Amtrak is focused on improving on-time performance; and Amtrak's ridership is growing. Amtrak is working daily to improve its service.

If confirmed, I pledge to work closely with the Committee, to strive for a more effective and efficient Amtrak.

Thank you again for asking me to appear before you today, and I will be pleased to answer any questions you might have.