

**STATEMENT OF NANCY A. NAPLES
NOMINEE FOR MEMBER, AMTRAK REFORM BOARD
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
DECEMBER 18, 2007**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. It is an honor for me to appear before you today to seek your approval of my nomination to serve as a member of the Amtrak Reform Board. I am grateful to President Bush for honoring me with this nomination. I also thank my husband, Thomas H. O'Neill, Jr., who is here with me today, and who has encouraged and supported me through my years of public service.

My entire career, in both the private and public sectors, I have focused on operational and fiscal management. In my twelve years as Erie County, New York's Comptroller, where I was known as the Taxpayers' Watchdog, I committed to improving and strengthening oversight and accountability of taxpayers' funds, and worked diligently to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in local government. If confirmed, I will work with fellow Board Members, Members of Congress and the Administration, as well as employees of Amtrak to ensure that America's national rail system is run as efficiently and as cost-effectively as possible. I believe Amtrak should be in the best financial health possible, and I take the Board's fiduciary responsibilities very seriously.

In my role as New York State's Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, I made security and safety our highest priority. It is imperative that America's rail system and Amtrak passengers are safe from terrorist attacks. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that Amtrak is an integral part of our homeland security strategy.

My lifelong attraction to train travel has played an important role in my interest for this position. I have been a train traveler since I first took the New York Central in 1965, on a high school trip from Buffalo to the New York World's Fair. Although in recent years my use of Amtrak has been mainly on commuter trains, I have traveled by rail extensively in Europe and Canada, and I am taking the Empire Builder in early 2008, to familiarize myself better with Amtrak.

If confirmed, I pledge to attend to the business of Amtrak with the same dedication and commitment which I have demonstrated throughout my career, and I will work closely with this Committee and Congress to strive for a more efficient and effective Amtrak.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.