

**STATEMENT OF MR. CARL T. JOHNSON,
NOMINEE FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DECEMBER 18, 2007**

Chairman Inouye, Senator Stevens, Distinguished Members of the Committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today.

I welcome the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination to serve as Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) at the Department of Transportation.

I would like to publicly thank my wife Joyce, my son David, and my daughter Karin, for supporting me through my various journeys in life and continued interest in government service.

I am honored to have been nominated by President Bush for this important position and, if confirmed, I look forward to joining Secretary Peters and her strong leadership team at the Department. I want you to know that I will fully dedicate myself to ensuring that PHMSA fulfills its vital safety mission and that I will work closely with you and your staff to get the job done.

PHMSA administers Federal programs designed to protect our communities and the environment from the inherent risks resulting from the commercial transportation of hazardous materials and the operation of our nation's pipelines. I believe that my 47-year professional career has provided me with a variety of assignments and responsibilities in management and leadership that will help me succeed in the position for which I have been nominated. My assignments have given me the opportunity to understand how organizations function, how objectives are set, how performance is measured and how to achieve the result the Administration, the Congress and the public expects and deserves.

As President and CEO of the Compressed Gas Association (CGA), I had overall management responsibility for an organization whose sole purpose is safety. At the CGA, I developed an appreciation for the value of consensus standards and for working cooperatively with regulators for improved safety and enforcement. Even with these standards and codes of practice in place, unfortunate incidents still occur. It is therefore also critical to review accidents and near misses. If confirmed, I will do all in my power to continuously improve the standards and codes of practice by which we operate so as to provide the highest possible level of safety for our workers, transporters/distributors, those who use the products, and the public at large.

Mr. Chairman, I commit to you that, if confirmed, I will work diligently to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to me. Thank you.