

Statement of John H. Hill
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Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U. S. Department of Transportation
Before the
Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
United States Senate

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you as the President's nominee to become the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself and to briefly share with you my vision for the future of the Agency.

For the past three years I have served as the Assistant Administrator & Chief Safety Officer of FMCSA. During this time I have had the opportunity to work with our state and local partners. I have also had the opportunity to collaborate with Congressional staff to establish safety priorities for the Agency. If confirmed, I will work closely with Congress to continue to improve key program areas.

Before my service with the Department of Transportation, I spent nearly 29 years with the Indiana State Police – including several years dedicated exclusively to motor carrier safety. A key lesson I learned in Indiana - that has resonated even louder since joining FMCSA - is that the goal of commercial vehicle safety depends on careful cooperation and open communication.

Recent years of domestic economic expansion and heightened demand on our transportation system has created new challenges. Increased need for freight and passenger movement must be

guided by increased safety on our highways. This is achievable – but the solutions are not simple. The industry is immense – over

685,000 carriers that FMCSA regulates- and it is a diverse industry, with different types of carriers and over 11 million commercial vehicle drivers.

To be successful, state and local governments - with their enforcement expertise and dedicated workforces - must be fully engaged at every level of the safety program. The US DOT must continue to work with Congress to provide guidance, tools, and resources. And the motor carrier industry, safety advocate groups, shippers, commercial vehicle manufacturers, and logistics providers must all collaborate to become joint problem-solvers - not simply critics of each other.

If confirmed, I will bring these stakeholders together and encourage cooperation. I will also work with the other surface administrations within the Department of Transportation – specifically the Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - to build upon Secretary Mineta’s unified approach to safety planning initiatives, data improvements, and guidance to the states.

While working collaboratively to enhance safety, I will remember the statutory authority Congress has provided. If confirmed, I will continue to strengthen our agency’s enforcement activities. My extensive experience in law enforcement has taught me that good laws are effective when obeyed. For those who do not voluntarily comply with safety and commercial carrier regulations, we will target enforcement to promote compliance.

FMCSA writes regulations, conducts research, educates the public, distributes grants, and ensures safety practices through enforcement – but it is all aimed at one clear and simple mission: to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. If confirmed by the Senate, I am committed to improving these activities by leading the dedicated employees of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to accomplish this mission.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.