

Statement of Raymond P. Martinez
Nominee for Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Before the
Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
October 31, 2017

Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as the President's nominee for Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Chao for the opportunity to serve in this key position that is integrally involved in improving safety on our nation's roadways.

As the former Motor Vehicle Commissioner and Chairman of the Governors Traffic Safety Committee in New York State and the current Chairman & Chief Administrator of the State of New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, I have been a partner with other state agencies as well as stakeholders to advance safety on our roads. I have developed close working relationships with both FMCSA and NHTSA as well as with safety advocates, including AAA, the National Safety Council, and MADD. I believe that open communication and collaboration are very important and would continue this practice as FMCSA administrator.

Additionally, FMCSA has jurisdiction over more than 550,000 truck and bus companies and 6 million commercial driver license holders who share the road with 250 million other motorists. The majority of the FMCSA staff is field based, and much of its mission is to encourage state partners to join in safety initiatives and to be a force multiplier for CMV enforcement.

In both New York and New Jersey, to ensure that we were utilizing the best available data when approaching transportation and traffic safety challenges, we also routinely engaged with thought leaders at some of the university research institutions in our region that continue to do great work in the area of traffic safety including the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR) at the State University of New York at Albany, the Vorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University, and the consortium of 19 major universities that make up the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) based at the City University of New York. I have found this open dialogue and cross pollination of ideas was essential to problem-solving. Implementation of laws and promulgating regulations should be done with the best information available, and must be viewed by stakeholders as reasonable, rational and fair. If confirmed as FMCSA administrator, I would continue to pursue data-driven policies.

Each year, the safety landscape on our roadways becomes more and more complex and challenging. The tried and true approach of applying the three “E’s” of traffic safety: Engineering applies the application of new technologies; Education means better training and testing of those in the truck and bus industry and the sharing of important safety information for those who share the road with trucks and buses; and Enforcement of laws and regulations. As an integral part of the Department of Transportation, FMCSA needs to do its part to keep our highways as safe as possible and to drive the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities down to zero.

Early on, my parents instilled in me that citizenship carried responsibilities, including civic engagement, and that public service was a good and honorable endeavor. Indeed, like many, I have found public service to be a calling. It has given me a chance to work with dedicated colleagues in a field that makes a real difference in people’s lives and has the potential to improve the communities we all live in.

I thank the committee for your consideration. If confirmed, I would look forward to working with you and your staff on our mutual goals of highway safety and effective transportation. I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.