

Questions for the Record

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

MINORITY

*“Nominations of Joel Matthew Szabat to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors,
Anthony Rosario Coscia to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors
Christopher Koos to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors,
Alvin Brown to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board”*

10:00 AM, June 21, 2023

RANKING MEMBER TED CRUZ (R-TX)

1. California recently passed a law that imposes stringent pollution emission limits on locomotives. These limits are even more aggressive than current federal standards that are already deterring freight railroads from investing in new locomotives. If California or another state's environmental laws were to require Amtrak to incur additional expenses, do you believe it would be right for Amtrak to use federal taxpayer funds to cover those expenses?

Response: If confirmed to be a member of the Amtrak board, I will have a better understanding of Amtrak's expenses as it pertains to reducing emissions and will make a fiscally responsible decision based on that information. However, in general, Amtrak should always be compliant with the laws that apply to the actions they take as a corporate entity.

2. Amtrak has repeatedly made known that the COVID-19 pandemic and government-imposed business shutdowns led to sharp decreases in Amtrak's ridership and revenues. Amtrak received billions in additional federal taxpayer funding to cover the shortfall. Nevertheless, nine of Amtrak's top executives received bonuses in excess of \$200,000 for fiscal year 2021. Responsibility for these bonuses rests with the Amtrak board.

- a. Will you commit to personally examine all bonus compensation packages to make sure they are based on appropriate metrics, including ridership and revenues on Amtrak's National Network?

Response: As a sitting mayor, I have oversight of compensation measured by objectives and outcomes. I will bring this experience to the Board, if appointed.

- b. Will you also commit to examining other aspects of Amtrak executive compensation, such as benefits, for appropriateness?

Response: As stated similarly above, yes. In a highly competitive employment market such as the one we are currently in, compensation, bonuses and benefits should be measured by talent, experience, and performance.

SENATOR SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO (R-WV)

Topic: Amtrak Finances

Mr. Koos, thank you for your service to our country. Since the pandemic and the bipartisan infrastructure law, we have given tens of billions of dollars to Amtrak. While ridership has not yet fully recovered and there are still supply chain issues with rolling stock,

1. How sustainable will Amtrak be when these dollars run out?

Response: As a potential board member, I believe it is incumbent on us to use these dollars to build Amtrak into an even more reliable and sustainable part of a long-term national transportation strategy.