

**Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you a very dear friend and a great public servant who has been nominated by President Bush for Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.**

**Since his first confirmation more than three and a half years ago, he has demonstrated himself to be a highly qualified and energized member and leader of this critically important federal agency. Before I talk more about Mark, I'd like to introduce his wife Heather.**

**I'd also like to welcome many of Mark's friends and colleagues who have come to show their support for him as well.**

**During his tenure, Mark has brought a wealth of management and advocacy experience to the board.**

**With more than 37 years of active and reserve duty in the Air Force, Mark has risen to the rank of Major General. His**

**decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and two Meritorious Service medals.**

**Because of his unique combination of private sector and military experience, President Bush appointed Mark to be a Deputy Assistant to the President and the Director of the White House Military Office on the first day of his administration.**

**In this senior staff position, Mark was the principal advisor for all military support to the White House, which included policies, personnel and plans involving DOD assets such as Air Force One, Marine One and White House transportation, just to name a few.**

**After serving nearly two years at the White House, President Bush nominated Mark to be a member of the NTSB.**

**Since the Senate first confirmed Mark in March of 2003 and then again in December of last year, President Bush has twice designated him to serve in the role of Vice Chairman. And since**

**March of 2005, Mark has been serving with distinction as the Acting Chairman.**

**During his time at the Board, Mark has been a strong and outspoken advocate for transportation safety. Mark has focused his attention on the prevention of accidents, injuries and fatalities, rather than just mitigating the results.**

**For his leadership role in recreational boating safety issues, the National Safe Boating Council presented Mark with their highest honor, the Confluence Award. This award is traditionally given to members of Congress and Mark is one of a few executive branch people to receive this award.**

**The aviation industry acknowledges his leadership role in the challenging issue of preventing runway incursions. He's been outspoken in attempting to get the FAA to require that all children under the age of two be secured by safety belts while flying.**

**Mark has seen significant changes and advancements in transportation safety and technologies since beginning his advocacy career over 30 years ago representing the American Safety Belt Council, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the Safety Helmet Council of America .**

**Mark tells me that when he began talking about safety belt use laws in the early 70s, less than five percent of the American people used their safety belts, and there were not state laws requiring their use. Contrast that to the recent announcement from the Department of Transportation, that 82 percent currently wear their belts with 49 states having some form of law to require their use.**

**Clearly Mark has demonstrated that he is capable and enthusiastic about the board and its mission.**

**Once again, I am proud to introduce my good friend Mark Rosenker and I urge all of you to suppose his nomination as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.**