

U.S. Senator Gary Peters

**U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Federal Maritime Commission Nominations Hearing**

February 28, 2024

Opening Remarks

Welcome to each of the nominees – and to your friends and family members joining us today. Thank you for your prior public service and your willingness to fill these important positions.

The Federal Maritime Commission plays an essential role in American shipping and the global economy. It regulates shipping lines to keep them fair and competitive – and protects our country’s interests in this industry. This agency doesn’t just help international trade go more smoothly – it keeps the American economy humming.

It's more important than ever that we confirm qualified people to the FMC – and in this instance, retain the leadership and expertise provided by Chairman Daniel Maffei and Commissioner Rebecca Dye.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Act was signed into law last summer – and provided the FMC with a number of new authorities. If these nominees are confirmed – they will be equipped with new tools to address supply chain challenges and investigate unfair practices.

For instance – the Ocean Shipping Reform Act established new practices for detention and demurrage. This is one of the key duties of this commission – ensuring that American shippers are not being charged unfair fees – and in turn, lowering costs for consumers across Michigan and the entire country.

Authorities like these will help FMC commissioners do their jobs – and meet the demand of a record caseload. I look forward to hearing how our nominees plan to continue implementing these new policies – and the other oversight responsibilities of the FMC.

As a Michigander, I’m also interested in what our nominees have to say about the Great Lakes. Our ports and shippers are a pillar of the American shipping industry. Our state is a unique regulatory environment for the FMC – and I hope to learn more about how they plan to keep our state’s shipping lines running effectively.

Finally, the duties of this commission intersect with safety and international security. Conflicts abroad can lead to attacks on commercial American ships – as we’ve seen recently across the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The FMC has to monitor issues like this – and respond to their effects on the American stakeholders in the shipping industry.

These are just a few examples of the work these nominees will tackle if they are confirmed to this commission. Today's hearing gives us a chance to hear from them directly – and dive deeper into their experience, qualifications, and vision for the Federal Maritime Commission.

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Our first nominee – Dan Maffei – has sat on the FMC since 2016 and is currently the chairman of the commission. This is the latest chapter in a long career of public service for Mr. Maffei – including as a member of the House of Representatives for two terms, where I was lucky enough to serve alongside him.

I'm honored to preside over his nomination hearing – and look forward to learning more about his work with the FMC today.

Chairman Maffei, you are now recognized for your opening remarks.

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Our second nominee – Rebecca Dye – has been a commissioner of the FMC since 2002. She has been reappointed and confirmed three times – first by President Bush, and subsequently by President Obama. Prior to joining the commission, Ms. Dye served as counsel in various offices of the Coast Guard, U.S. Maritime Administration, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Commissioner Dye, you are now recognized for your opening remarks.