

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. 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: Emphatically, yes. A primary function of a corporate board is to determine the appropriate compensation for senior management, and to establish metrics that drive actions towards desired goals. I believe that both increased ridership and revenue (specifically, bringing total revenue above operating costs) should be among Amtrak's goals. If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues to align Amtrak's corporate compensation with these goals.

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

Response: Yes.

SENATOR SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO (R-WV)

Topic: WV Lines

Mr. Szabat, the Northeast Corridor receives a bulk of Amtrak's attention. Yet the vast majority of routes are not within the NEC and some others connect to it.

1. How would you ensure that other Amtrak lines like the two that run through West Virginia - the Cardinal and the Capitol Limited would not be put on the backburner if you are confirmed?

Response: I represented the United States Department of Transportation on the Amtrak Board from June 2019 through January 2021. During that time, Amtrak's Inspector General released a report that highlighted the need for increased reliability on the National Network – lines such as the *Cardinal* and *Capitol Limited* – in order for Amtrak to be a truly nationwide service. If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues to ensure that Amtrak management is focused on achieving the goals laid out in the IG report by taking actions to improve the performance of Amtrak's host railroads and to address causes of delay that are within Amtrak's control.