

TESTIMONY OF MR. DAVE SANBORN
NOMINEE FOR THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
FEBRUARY 7, 2006

Thank you, Senator Allen, for your most gracious comments.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee.

It is my great honor to be here today as President Bush's nominee for the Maritime Administrator. As a graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy just being here at this table with these fine transportation professionals represents a point in my career that most of my peers can only dream about.

I have spent my entire professional life working in the maritime industry, domestically and internationally. This experience gives me the firm belief that our cargo transportation system and intermodal network in the United States are at a critical crossroad for the future.

We have the labor force, the knowledge, the technical capability, and the natural harbor resources to ensure that the cargo, which our nation needs for its survival and security, can be transported efficiently and economically. However, we need the vision and leadership to bring together all of the stakeholders and experts in the cargo supply chain, and to establish solutions for how we are going to seamlessly handle these huge volumes of cargo through our transportation infrastructure.

I sit here in front of you today because I am passionate about our maritime future. I have had the good fortune of working in numerous operating environments in the United States and overseas. This has enabled me to observe first hand some of the most efficient AND inefficient cargo handling processes in use today. If I am allowed to bring this experience to the Maritime Administration I believe we can accomplish some very dynamic and advanced changes in current thought on how to most efficiently handle cargo flow.

If I am confirmed I will take this opportunity to play a leadership role in bringing our U.S Flag fleet back to the preeminence it once enjoyed, AND to expand upon our domestic cargo carrying capability. I welcome the chance to work to advance our cargo infrastructure so that the United States is the envy of our trading partners. I believe that the United States can be the proving ground for technology that advances cargo security systems, cargo handling capability, cargo tracking, and cargo logistics systems. In this effort it is critical that we ensure that the security of our ports and infrastructure is part of our planning and strategies. The time has also come to focus on our ship yards, so that they can return to being facilities of choice for constructing the most technologically advanced vessels in the world.

I believe the Maritime Administration is the agency that can provide the leadership, together with the technological expertise and knowledge, to deliver this ambitious vision. I am convinced that the Maritime Administration can be the "go to" agency for transportation solutions that will support the needs of both our governmental cargo carrying requirements as well as our commercial customers.

If you will give me the opportunity by confirming my role in this organization I will commit my energy and knowledge to leading the Maritime Administration and working with the many fine people who are equally dedicated, as I am, to a legacy of maritime excellence.

I would be happy, now, to answer any questions you may have.