

Testimony of Samuel H. Slater
Nominee to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington
Airports Authority
Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
November 7, 2023

Good afternoon, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and Members of the Committee. I want to thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today as the nominee to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). I am grateful to the President for nominating me to this Board. I want to begin by thanking my wife, Jessica and my children James and Dylan for their continued love and support.

As you may know, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is a public agency created by interstate compact between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia to operate Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport under lease from the United States. It is governed by a Board of 17 Members three, (3) of whom are appointed by the President.

I am excited about this opportunity to serve and believe the depth of my private sector experience will be a benefit to the Authority. In addition to safety, MWAA's primary objectives are to plan, provide and actively manage world class facilities and access to the global aviation system in a way that anticipates and serves the needs of the National Capital region. These objectives serve the Authority's mission to develop, promote, and operate safely both airports in addition to the Dulles Toll Road, while continually striving to improve efficiency, customer experience, and the level of service offered.

To effectively accomplish this, constant focus on providing customers with an exceptional travel experience, from both the perspective of the business traveler and leisure traveler alike, is crucial. The diversity of my professional experiences requires me to be similarly focused on consumer needs and desires, from the needs of residential, commercial, and retail tenants, to the public consumer experience within sport, media, and live entertainment. Throughout these activities I continually engage with the end user perspective and study how to improve customer enjoyment and satisfaction with a service.

My primary focus and expertise includes both the operation and development of commercial and residential real estate, totaling in excess of four million square feet of existing space and that which is in development currently. Reagan and Dulles airports encompass a vast amount of land and existing facilities, comprising approximately Five million square feet of existing space, exclusive of parking facilities, and nearly 13,000 acres. Appropriately serving these assets requires, among other things, experience in facilities and construction management and operational support. This need may at times be less apparent than the obvious function of providing air transit services but is no less important. I believe my professional skill set will be

of value to this board in the continued pursuit of a pleasurable passenger experience, the management and development of its facilities, and its continued economic development. If confirmed, I hope to bring this experience, perspective, and focus to the board.

I am told that often the federally appointed members of this board are among the most active. They are also acutely aware of the statutory direction, in the federal Metropolitan Washington Airports Act, to “ensure adequate consideration is given to the national interest.” I can assure the Committee that this commitment will continue if I am confirmed. I am passionate and excited about the opportunity to serve on MWAA’s Board. I would like to thank the Committee for considering my nomination, and I am happy to answer your questions. Thank you.