



**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION**
Senator Maria Cantwell, Chair

**U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
Executive Session**

May 1, 2024

Opening Remarks

Today, the Committee will consider critical nominations in our jurisdiction.

First, we are considering the nomination of Jennifer Homendy to be the Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board.

During her time on the Board, Chair Homendy has been a fierce advocate for safety. Thanks to her leadership, the FAA Reauthorization includes critical provisions that improve the Board's workforce, strengthen its investigative authorities, and prepare it for emerging technologies.

We are also considering the nomination of Patrick Fuchs to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board. The Surface Transportation Board plays a critical role in ensuring railroads meet the needs of the national transportation systems.

Mr. Fuchs has worked in a bipartisan manner to improve the safety board's oversight of the freight railroads.

Chairman Daniel Maffei was first appointed to the Federal Maritime Commission under President Barack Obama and renominated by President Trump.

As a Commissioner, he is overseeing the implementation of the good work of two of our colleagues on the Committee, Senator Klobuchar and Senator Thune, in the Ocean Shipping Reform Act. And it is helping boost the competition and protecting American businesses who are trying to export abroad.

We also have for the Federal Maritime Commission, Commissioner Rebecca Dye who was first nominated by President George Bush in 2002.

During Commissioner Dye's time, she has demonstrated a balanced and thoughtful approach to these important issues of this shipping industry.

...

And critical to our national security, we are considering [437] nominations for the promotion of the Coast Guard.

I would like to congratulate a couple of members who we have worked with over the years:

Rear Admiral Tom Allan, who was Chief of Congressional Affairs when we worked to double the family leave time for the Coast Guard, really, really important issue that put the Coast Guard at the forefront of workforce policy. And very much appreciate that the Coast Guard has figured out that women are a big part of their future workforce, and so having a family leave policy was really, really important. I want to thank him for his continued leadership.

And also want to highlight Coast Guard Congressional Affairs veteran, Commander Kent Reinhold who is becoming a Captain. Thank you for your service to our nation.