

**Rep. Sean Duffy Opening Statement
Commerce Committee Nomination Hearing**

As prepared for delivery

January 15, 2024

Thank you, Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the committee.

It's an honor to appear before you today, and I am humbled by the trust President Trump has placed in me.

If confirmed, it will be a privilege to serve the American people.

I look forward to working closely with this committee as you provide oversight and guidance to the Department of Transportation.

I'd like to introduce my wife, Rachel Campos-Duffy, and our children.

Rachel and I met on a reality TV show and have been married for 25 years.

Rachel is the love of my life, my best friend, and the incredible mother of our 9 children -- 8 of whom are sitting right behind me.

Each and every one of them is a gift from God and the reason I want to serve this country and do my part to make a better future for them.

Our eldest, Evita, is here with her husband, Michael.

Lucia-Belen is a college junior at the University of Dallas.

John-Paul, 18, is a senior in high school; Paloma is a junior, and Maria-Victoria is a freshman.

Margarita is in fifth grade, Patrick is in third grade, and Valentina, our youngest at five years old, is in Pre-K.

Valentina was born with Down syndrome and the only thing our crazy family agrees on is that she is the light and joy of our family.

My eldest son, Jack, couldn't be here today because his wife, Kaylinn, just had our first grandchild, Lourdes.

I'd also like to acknowledge my mother- and father-in-law, Pilar and Miguel, who are also here to show their support.

I'm thankful for their presence and for letting me marry their daughter.

As a father of nine, I think a lot about transportation, especially safety.

My son, John-Paul, drives his younger siblings to school—a car full of precious cargo.

Whether driving, flying, or traveling by train, no federal agency impacts Americans' daily lives and their loved ones more than the Department of Transportation.

I am honored to have the trust of President Trump, and hopefully this body, to lead such an important segment of our economy.

Transportation influences how long it takes to get home to loved ones, and improving its safety and efficiency directly enhances Americans' lives.

President Trump is a builder.

He has told me that this department is a top priority for him & he wants to invest in rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure.

He asked me to focus on big, durable projects that connect our country and people.

If confirmed, I will work to reduce the red tape that slows critical infrastructure projects, ensuring funds are spent efficiently.

Safety is paramount.

Every year, 40,000 lives are lost in roadway accidents.

This hits close to home—my wife survived a deadly head-on car crash, which profoundly shaped her life.

If confirmed, I will prioritize road safety, ensuring lives and families aren't forever changed by preventable accidents.

In aviation, safety will remain the top priority.

America needs more air traffic controllers.

The best and the brightest.

We must modernize our systems with cutting-edge technology.

I will work with Congress and the FAA to restore global confidence in Boeing and to ensure our skies are safe.

Transportation is entering an extraordinary new era.

From eVTOLs, drones and autonomous vehicles to space travel, we are in a global race to out-innovate the rest of the world.

If confirmed, we will craft clear regulations that balance safety, innovation, and cutting-edge technology.

Transportation impacts every aspect of life—from the efficiency and security of our ports to the ease of commuting to work, school, and church.

Together with President Trump, this committee, and the entire DOT team, we will usher in a golden age of travel.

This is America.

Americans dream big and lead the world in innovation.

Senators Baldwin & Johnson know that in Wisconsin, a half day's work means 12 hours.

As Secretary of Transportation, I will work tirelessly to make travel in America more efficient, comfortable, and safe.

Americans deserve to have travel experiences that make us proud.

Let's get to work!

Thank you for welcoming my big family and me today. I look forward to answering your questions.

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