

TESTIMONY OF MR. TYLER DUVALL
NOMINEE FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
TRANSPORTATION POLICY
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION
FEBRUARY 7, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

I greatly appreciate the Committee's willingness to consider my nomination given the busy legislative schedule. It is a privilege to appear before you.

I am honored to be President Bush's nominee for Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy of the Department of Transportation, and I am extremely excited to have an opportunity to assist Secretary Mineta and Deputy Secretary Cino in the development of national transportation policies if I am confirmed.

I would not be here today without the love and support I have received from my wife Andrea and my parents and step-parents. And I would not know the overwhelming joy of being a parent without my daughters Olivia and Julia.

In my opinion, there are few areas of policy more fascinating than those currently within the scope of our Department's mission. No other networks impact the lives of Americans and the U.S. economy more fundamentally and more frequently than our transportation networks. Efficient and safe mobility of people and goods provides a necessary foundation for our country's continued economic growth and plays a large role in shaping the quality of life of all of our citizens.

In recent decades, the strength of these networks has facilitated a global economic transformation that has dramatically increased the well-being of billions of people around the world. It has allowed U.S. consumers and producers to access international markets in ways previously thought impossible.

The completion of the interstate highway system, the single largest public investment in the history of the world; a revolution in supply chain and inventory management; and the rapid growth in the number of Americans traveling by air following deregulation are all historic achievements. But historic achievements alone do not lay the foundation for a prosperous future.

The strains on our transportation systems are becoming clear. To be sure, these strains are the product of a vibrant economy, but they also represent an underlying threat to that economy. It is precisely the size and importance of the challenges before us that have inspired me to public service and to work for one of the great public servants of my generation, Secretary Mineta.

The country has a moment of unprecedented opportunity in the next several years. On multiple fronts, from system capacity, to urban and suburban congestion, to the safety of all those using the transportation system, the possibility of great achievement exists.

I believe my background and experience in the policy office for the past four years, including as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for two and half of those years, qualifies me well to serve both the President and Secretary Mineta as we collectively pursue these achievements.

Having worked closely with each of the Department's operating administrations in the development of the recently enacted surface transportation reauthorization legislation, I have gained a deep understanding of the internal and external challenges confronting the Department, and if I am confirmed, I would work closely with Secretary Mineta to establish an ambitious agenda for his policy office.

This Committee has a critical role to play in our nation's transportation future, and if the Senate provides it advice and consent, I would welcome the opportunity to help establish that future together.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions you might have.