

Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 116th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "Not Applicable" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Carl Whitney Bentzel

2. Position to which nominated:

Commissioner, Federal Maritime Commission

3. Date of Nomination:

June 12, 2019

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):



5. Date and Place of Birth:

07/25/1963: Place of Birth: Bethesda, Md.

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Suzanne Marie Bentzel employed by the West Virginia University.



7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

B.A. Degree (History), St. Lawrence University, 1985

J.D, Degree, University of Alabama, 1989

L.L.M. in Admiralty Law, Tulane University, 1990

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Democrat Counsel for Maritime Policy, House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries (1990-1994).

Democrat Senior Counsel, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (1995-2004).

Vice President, DCI Group LLC (2004-2014).

Partner, SB Capitol Solutions (2014-2016).

Principal, Bentzel Strategies LLC (2016 to present).

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

Attached at the end of the questionnaire.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

Not Applicable.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

List of entities for whom I consulted:

- **Hydrogen Energy California LLC**
- **Specialized Carrier and Rigging Association**
- **American Roll-on Roll-off Carriers**
- **American Task Force Argentina**
- **CEMEX**
- **Exxon Mobil**
- **Great River Economic Development Fdtn.**
- **Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)**
- **Verizon**
- **Inspire STEM Coalition**
- **Intelligent Car Coalition**
- **DCI Group LLC**

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Propeller Club of Washington DC (2008-2012, est.)
Country Club at Woodmore (2004 to present)

Both organizations do not discriminate.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any

outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

Not Applicable.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

Not Applicable.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years.

Joe Manchin (\$4016)
Cheri Bustos (\$500)
Rick Nolan (\$500)
Garret Graves (\$1500)
Sam Graves (\$500)
Mary Landrieu (\$2,750)
Nita Lowey (\$500)
Mark Pryor (\$1500)
Nick Rahall (\$1500)
Kelly Ayotte (\$500)
Ed Pastor (\$500)
Kristin Gillibrand (\$1500)
Allan Mollohan (\$1500)
Collen Hanabusa (\$500)
Bob Corker (\$500)
Pete Visclosky (\$1000)
Charlie Melancon (\$500)
Daniel Inouye (\$1000)
Natalie Tennant (4100)
DCI PAC (\$3000)

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

**Coast Guard's Medal for Meritorious Public Service
Maritime Security Council's Man of the Year Award**

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

I have written articles, presented testimony, and given speeches on a number of issues related to my expertise in maritime shipping, transportation and energy, and have included a summary and access to these materials.

Book:

McGraw-Hill's *Handbook on Homeland Security*, port security chapter, (chapter 36).

Op-Eds:

Security in U.S. ports is severely lagging 5/17/2006:

<https://rbj.net/2006/03/17/security-in-u-s-ports-is-severely-lagging/>

All of the Above Transportation Funding 2/25/2017:

<https://morningconsult.com/opinions/transportation-funding-its-all-of-the-above/>

Trump Should Reverse Obama -Era South Atlantic Oil and Gas Restrictions 5/07/2017: <https://morningconsult.com/opinions/trump-reverse-obama-era-south-atlantic-oil-gas-restictions/%3C/span%3E>

The Wall, It is All About – Over, Under, Around, and Through 11/27/2017: <https://morningconsult.com/opinions/its-not-about-a-wall-but-it-is-about-over-around-under-through/>

During the course of my close to fifteen-year work experience in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, I was asked on average about five times a year to provide legislative update speeches to groups involved in maritime and transportation policy. All speeches were given under the constraints of my professional obligations to the House and Senate Committees where I worked. All remarks that I made were made off of the cuff, and I do not have notes either. I have attached internet access to all speeches and events that I could readily locate that discussed my comments.

<http://www.thebreakingnews.com/files/articles/ncorpcharlestontranscript.pdf>. National Council on Readiness and Preparedness (port security/11/30/2006)

<https://www.upi.com/Washington-Agenda-General/62791021663216/> Center for Strategic and International Studies holds a program with U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta to discuss Post-9/11 Environment. (port security/5/20.2002)

<http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/hdj/070307/> Border, Maritime and Transportation Security Conference (port security on 3/7/2007)

<https://m.marinelog.com/docs/MLEGMMIV/mlegMMIV2.html> Marine Log Conference (maritime legislative update on 9/23/2004)

<https://www.truckinginfo.com/108276/in-the-end-truckers-costs-are-shippers-costs-too> NIT League panel discussion (trucking driver shortage on 5/23/2012)

<http://www.island.lk/2004/07/05/busine06.html> Washington Press Club Panel Discussion (port security on 5/7/2004)

18. List digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an “alias” or “handle” you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/carl-bentzel-1a1794166>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/carl-bentzel-95073713>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Carl-Bentzel/100015626198312>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/cbentstrat1>

Website:

<https://bentstrat.com/>

All accounts are dormant except Facebook, and none had an alias.

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

Presidential Advisory Commission on Conferences in Ocean Shipping: 4/1992. I participated as a Congressional Staff Advisor to a Commission advising the President as to potential regulatory changes to our system of regulating international ocean shipping.

https://www.archives.gov/files/recordsmgmt/rcs/schedules/independent-agencies/rg-0220/n1-220-92-011_sf115.pdf

Interagency Commission on Crime and Security in U.S. Seaports: Fall 2000. I participated as a Congressional Staff Advisor to a Commission advising the President as to issues related to port security.

<https://www.hsdl.org/?abstract&did=437742>

The Coast Guard held a public meeting on 11/9/2012 to receive comments on the development of a Facility Security Officer training program, pursuant to the requirements of Section 821 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 ([Pub. L. 111-281](#)). I testified on behalf of the National Association of Waterfront Employers about the issues raised in this Federal Register Notice.

(<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2012/10/11/2012-25055/facility-security-officer-training-requirements>). I did not provide written testimony.

United States Department of Energy, Quadrennial Energy Review, Public Stakeholder Meeting. I testified on a panel on Barge - Waterborne Transportation of Energy in the Inland Waterway, Across the Great Lakes, and Along Our Nation's Coasts (8/8/2014).

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

During the course of my close to fifteen years of service as a staffer on both the House of Representatives and the Senate, I was the primary Democrat staffer assigned responsibility of overseeing the operations of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). I handled all oversight of their budget and operations functions, and considered issues related to any legislation. While a House staffer, I participated as a congressional advisor to a Presidentially appointed commission reviewing the functions of the FMC. While in the Senate, in 1996, I was the primary Democrat staffer involved in amending the organic legislative structure governing international ocean shipping.

I believe that I have a deep and thorough knowledge in this area of jurisdiction, and would look forward to the challenges of helping to regulate international ocean shipping and the practices the industry engages in.

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, as one of five commissioners serving the Federal Maritime Commission, I would have limited authority to manage the budget of the agency, as that is reserved for the Chairman of the Commission. However, I would have authority to manage the budget of the office of a commissioner, and I would pledge to manage the

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

I think the three major challenges facing the FMC are: 1) increasing industry consolidation of international maritime shipping companies and what that means to the U.S. port and maritime service providers and U.S. shippers, 2) the challenges of responding to environmental pressures as a result of port operations to allow the continued necessity of the movement of international maritime shipments and, 3) the challenges of helping to establish the proper regulatory environment to foster the challenge of transferring maritime shipments off to their modal railroad and trucking partners.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

Not Applicable.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

Not Applicable.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

All of the investments owned by myself or my wife are in publicly available mutual funds.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

Not Applicable.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

At present, I do not represent any clients with a major interest or stake in the jurisdiction of the Federal Maritime Commission, and do not anticipate this to be a problem. However, if nominated, I plan to

seek education from the FMC's Office of General Counsel to be educated on the Commission's regulations and requirements governing conflicts of interest, and how they should be addressed. I will abide by any agency, or general government standards, governing conflicts of interest.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

During the past ten years, I have been involved in the business of representing clients and their interests in the execution of regulations and policies and legislation. I would say that for over the past five years, I have been less involved in lobbying Congress directly on legislation, and more involved in issues at federal agencies.

Traditionally, I have been involved in consulting companies and Associations that are engaged in transportation, infrastructure development, energy or chemical regulation. I have also been involved on a more limited basis on immigration and environmental policy.

I am happy to provide further specifics to the Committee on any area that are deemed to be of interest, and fully committed to provide further detail. However, over the past ten years my work product in general has been to advise, affect and influence federal regulatory and legislative policies.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:
 - a. Provide the name of agency, association, committee, or group;
 - b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
 - c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
 - d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

No.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

Yes, in 1990, after attending a college football game in Greenville, North Carolina, Pitt County. I was arrested and convicted of a DUI. I complied with the terms of my sentence, and since then, other than minor traffic violations have had no further legal issues.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

Yes. See number 2 for explanation.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

No further relevant information.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

As a former Commerce Committee staffer, I am firmly aware of the role played by the Commerce Committee in providing oversight of the FMC and will encourage the agency to be responsive to the demands of the Committee.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

I will.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes.

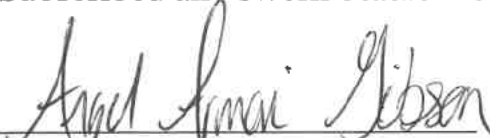
(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

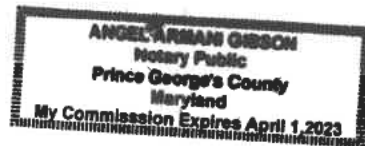
F. AFFIDAVIT

I, Carl Bentzel being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.


Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 20 day of June, 2019.


Notary Public



Carl Bentzel

Principal

Bentzel Strategies L.L.C.

www.bentstrat.com

August 2016 -- Present

Established my own public policy consulting firm focused on policies related to transportation, energy and other areas of federally regulated commercial and environmental law. Assess policy issues, provide strategic advice, represent client interests on Capitol Hill and before federal agencies, as well as helping clients develop third party alliances. Areas of focus included introducing myself to potential press opportunities in strategic areas of interest.

Partner

SB Capitol Solutions L.L.C.

June 2014 – August 2016

Partnered with a smaller boutique public relations/lobbying shop centrally located on Capitol Hill, primarily focused on transportation issues. Helped to developed an active fundraising profile for the firm, and re-brand the company.

Vice President

DCI Group L.L.C.

August 2004 – June 2014

Led the lobbying division for the DCI Group. DCI Group is one of the largest public relations/grassroots lobbying firms in Washington D.C., and I provided political and legislative insight to the firm's larger public relations efforts, as well as directly lobbying for DCI's clients, and those clients developed on my own. Participated in the creation and development of third party coalitions. Worked to provide government relations services for Fortune 50 companies, associations and other entities. Focused on realizing the benefits of grassroots activism and third party coalition building supporting policy initiatives on Capitol Hill or at federal agencies.

Senior Counsel

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

January 1995– August 2004

Functioned as the primary legislative and policy counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine. Explicitly assigned to provide legislative counsel and advice to Senators John Breaux and Daniel Inouye. Was engaged, in the negotiation and passage of all legislation on trucking, railroad, maritime, pipeline and hazardous materials transportation legislation, as well as homeland security aspects of these modes of transportation. Spearheaded the Committee's efforts to pass national standards for port security, and an international treaty on port security, and worked on organic homeland security legislation. Handled Committee issues requiring national security clearance.

Counsel/Counsel for Maritime Policy

House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

August 1990– December 1994

Hired to work as maritime counsel to work on implementation of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, and to cover all issues related to international maritime shipping. After an internal Committee transition, was employed in an expanded role to cover all issues related to maritime policy, including shipping and offshore oil and gas or other resource development. Focused on shipbuilding infrastructure development, and transition of the Panama Canal.

Education

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), St. Lawrence University, 1985

Juris Doctor (J.D.), University of Alabama School of Law, 1989

Master's Degree in Law (L.L.M.) in Admiralty Law, 1990

Honors

Coast Guard's Medal for Meritorious Public Service

Maritime Security Council's Man of the Year Award

Publications

McGraw-Hill's *Handbook on Homeland Security*, port security chapter

