



History of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

1. Senate Committee on Commerce and Manufactures

On December 10, 1816, the Senate established its first standing committees: Foreign Relations, Finance, Commerce and Manufactures, Military Affairs, Militia, Naval Affairs, Public Lands, Claims, Judiciary, Post Offices and Post Roads, and Pensions. Thus, the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, the antecedent of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation as it is formally titled today, is one of the oldest standing committees in the U.S. Senate. The Committee on Commerce and Manufactures was terminated on December 12, 1825, when the committee was divided into two committees: Committee on Commerce and Committee on Manufactures.

Chairmen of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures:

WILLIAM HUNTER, (F-RI)	1816-1817
NATHAN SANFORD, (R-NY)	1817-1820
MAHLON DICKERSON, (R/CRR-NJ)	1820-1825

2. Senate Committee on Commerce

On December 12, 1825, when the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures was divided into two committees, the Committee on Commerce was established. The Committee was terminated on January 2, 1947, when its functions were transferred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Chairmen of the Committee on Commerce (1st):

JAMES LLOYD, (ADAMS-CLAY R/ADAMS-MA)	1825-1826
JOSIAH JOHNSTON, (ADAMS-LA)	1826-1827
LEVI WOODBURY, (J-NH)	1827-1831
JOHN FORSYTH, (J-GA)	1831-1832
WILLIAM R. KING, (J/D-AL)	1832-1833 & 1836-1841
NATHANIEL SILSBEE, (AJ-MA)	1833-1835
JOHN DAVIS, (AJ-MA)	1835-1836
JABEZ HUNTINGTON, (W-CT)	1841-1845
WILLIAM HAYWOOD, (D-NC)	1845-1846
JOHN DIX, (D-NY)	1846-1849
HANNIBAL HAMLIN, (D-ME)	1849-1856
HENRY DODGE, (D-WI)	1856-1857
CLEMENT CLAY, (D-AL)	1857-1861
ZACHARIAH CHANDLER, (R-MI)	1861-1875
ROSCOE CONKLING, (R-NY)	1875-1879
JOHN GORDON, (D-GA)	1879-1880
MATT RANSOM, (D-NC)	1880-1881 & 1893-1895
SAMUEL J.R. McMILLAN, (R-MN)	1881-1887
WILLIAM FRYE, (R-ME)	1887-1893 & 1895-1911
KNUTE NELSON, (R-MN)	1911-1913
JAMES P. CLARKE, (D-AR)	1913-1916
DUNCAN U. FLETCHER, (D-FL)	1916-1919
WESLEY L. JONES, (R-WA)	1919-1930
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, (R-CA)	1930-1933
HUBERT D. STEPHENS, (D-MS)	1933-1935
ROYAL S. COPELAND, (D-NY)	1935-1939
JOSIAH W. BAILEY, (D-NC)	1939-1946

3. Senate Committee on Manufactures

On December 12, 1825, when the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures was divided into two committees, the Committee on Manufactures (1st) was established. The Committee was terminated on March 3, 1855. Chairmen of the Committee on Manufactures (1st):

MAHLON DICKERSON (J-NJ)	1825-1833
THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN (AJ-NJ)	1833-1835
NEHEMIAH KNIGHT (AJ-RI)	1835-1836
JOHN M. NILES (D-CT)	1836-1839
WILSON LUMPKIN (D-GA)	1839-1841
JAMES SIMMONS (W-RI)	1841-1845
DANIEL DICKINSON (D-NY)	1845-1849
WILLIAM SEBASTIAN (D-AR)	1849-1853
WILLIAM WRIGHT (D-NJ)	1853-1855

Nearly ten years after the termination of the Committee on Manufactures (1st), the Committee on Manufactures (2d) was established on February 10, 1864. The Committee terminated on January 2, 1947. Chairmen of the Committee on Manufactures (2d):

WILLIAM SPRAGUE (R-RI)	1864-1869
OLIVER MORTON (R-IN)	1869-1871
HANNIBAL HAMLIN (R-ME)	1871-1872
THOMAS J. ROBERTSON (R-SC)	1872-1877
NEWTON BOOTH (R-CA)	1877
EDWARD ROLLINS (R-NH)	1877-1879
LA FAYETTE GROVER (D-OR)	1879-1881
OMAR CONGER (R-MI)	1881-1883
H. H. RIDDLEBERGER (R/A-R-VA)	1883-1889
JAMES McMILLAN (R-MI)	1889-1892
ANTHONY HIGGINS (R-DE)	1892-1893
CHARLES GIBSON (D-MD)	1893-1895
GEORGE P. WETMORE (R-RI)	1895-1897
WILLIAM E. MASON (R-IL)	1897-1901
PORTER J. McCUMBER (R-ND)	1901-1903
WELDON HEYBURN (R-ID)	1903-1913
JAMES A. REED (D-MO)	1913-1918
JAMES K. VARDAMAN (D-MS)	1918-1919
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE (R-WI)	1919-1924
WILLIAM B. McKINLEY (R-IL)	1924-1926
O. E. WELLER (R-MD)	1926-1927
GEORGE P. McLEAN (R-CT)	1927-1929
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, JR. (R-WI)	1929-1933
ROBERT J. BULKLEY (D-OH)	1933-1939
JOHN H. OVERTON (D-LA)	1939-1947

Fifty years after the termination of the Committee on Manufactures (2d), interest in manufacturing peaked, which led to the establishment of a Subcommittee on Manufacturing and Competitiveness of the present-day Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

4. Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce

Having been preceded by the Select Committee to Investigate Interstate Commerce, the Committee on Interstate Commerce was established on December 12, 1887. The Committee was terminated on January 2, 1947, when the name was changed to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Chairmen of the Committee on Interstate Commerce:

SHELBY M. CULLOM, (R-IL)	1887-1893 & 1895-1901
MATTHEW BUTLER, (D-SC)	1893-1895
STEPHEN ELKINS, (R-WV)	1901-1911
MOSES E. CLAPP, (R-MN)	1911-1913
FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS, (D-NV)	1913-1917
ELLISON D. SMITH, (D-SC)	1917-1919 & 1924-1925
ALBERT B. CUMMINS, (R-IA)	1919-1924
JAMES E. WATSON, (R-IN)	1925-1928
JAMES COUZENS, (R-MI)	1928-1933
CLARENCE C. DILL, (D-WA)	1933-1935
BURTON K. WHEELER, (D-MT)	1935-1946

5. Senate Committee on InterOceanic Canals

The Committee on InterOceanic Canals was established on December 15, 1899. The Committee was terminated on January 2, 1947, when its functions were transferred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Chairmen of the Committee on InterOceanic Canals:

JOHN T. MORGAN (D-AL)	1899-1903
[vacant]	1903-1904
JOHN H. MITCHELL (R-OR)	1905
JOSEPH H. MILLARD (R-NE)	1905-1907
ALFRED B. KITTREDGE (R-SD)	1907-1909
FRANK FLINT (R-CA)	1909-1911
FRANK B. BRANDEGEE (R-CT)	1911-1913
JAMES A. O'GORMAN (D-NY)	1913-1917
JOHN K. SHIELDS (D-TN)	1917-1919
WILLIAM E. BORAH (R-ID)	1919-1922
WALTER EDGE (R-NJ)	1922-1930
THOMAS D. SCHALL (R-MN)	1930-1933
THOMAS P. GORE (D-OK)	1933-1937
BENNETT (CHAMP) CLARK (D-MO)	1937-1945
TOM STEWART (D-TN)	1945-1947



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6. Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, having been preceded by the Committee on Interstate Commerce, was established on January 2, 1947. The Committee was terminated on April 13, 1961, when the name was changed to the Committee on Commerce.

Chairmen of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce:

WALLACE H. WHITE, JR. (R-ME)	1947-1949
EDWIN C. JOHNSON, (D-CO)	1949-1953
CHARLES W. TOBEY, (R-NH)	1953
JOHN W. BRICKER, (R-OH)	1953-1955
WARREN G. MAGNUSON, (D-WA)	1955-1961

7. Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences

The Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences was established on July 24, 1958. The Committee was terminated on February 11, 1977, when its functions were transferred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Chairman of the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences:

LYNDON B. JOHNSON (D-TX)	1958-1961
ROBERT S. KERR (D-OK)	1961-1963
CLINTON P. ANDERSON (D-NM)	1963-1973
FRANK E. MOSS (D-UT)	1973-1977
WENDELL H. FORD (D-KY)	1977

8. Senate Committee on Commerce

The Committee on Commerce was established on April 13, 1961, when it replaced the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The Committee was terminated on February 11, 1977, when its functions were transferred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Chairman of the Committee on Commerce (2d):

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, (D-WA)	1961-1977
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9. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was established on February 11, 1977, when the functions of two committees — Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences — were transferred. Out of the first 11 standing Senate committees created on December 10, 1816, the Commerce Committee is among the four still in existence today: Commerce, Foreign Relations, Finance, and Judiciary.

Chairmen of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, (D-WA)	FEBRUARY 11, 1977 TO JANUARY 27, 1978
HOWARD W. CANNON, (D-NV)	JANUARY 27, 1978 TO JANUARY 2, 1981
BOB PACKWOOD, (R-OR)	JANUARY 5, 1981 TO FEBRUARY 21, 1985
JOHN C. DANFORTH, (R-MO)	FEBRUARY 21, 1985 TO JANUARY 6, 1987
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, (D-SC)	JANUARY 6, 1987 TO JANUARY 4, 1995
LARRY PRESSLER, (R-SD)	JANUARY 4, 1995 TO JANUARY 3, 1997
JOHN McCAIN, (R-AZ)	JANUARY 3, 1997* TO PRESENT

*January 9, 1997, pursuant to S. Res. 10.

Key to Political Parties

Adams	Adams
Adams-Clay F	Adams-Clay Federalist
Adams-Clay R	Adams-Clay Republican
AJ	Anti-Jackson
Anti-Admin	Anti-Administration
Am	American (Know-Nothing)
C	Conservative
CRR	Crawford Republican
D	Democrat
F	Federalist
FL	Farmer-Labor
FS	Free Soil
I	Independent
ID	Independent Democrat
IR	Independent Republican
J	Jacksonian
JR	Jackson Republican
L	Liberty
LR	Liberal Republican
LO	Law & Order
N	Nullifier
NA	Party Unknown
NR	National Republican
OP	Opposition
PO	Populist
PR	Progressive
Pro-Admin	Pro-Administration
R	Republican [1]
RA	Readjuster
S	Silver
SR	Silver Republican
U	Unionist
UU	Unconditional Unionist
W	Whig

[1] Refers to two different parties widely separated in time: Jeffersonian Republicans of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and the present Republican party, which was founded in the 1850s. The birth, death, and service dates of a senator should make clear which of the two parties is intended.