

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Full Committee Nomination Hearing
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

DEMOCRATIC QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

COVER PAGE
Robert Gleason

RANKING MEMBER MARIA CANTWELL (D-WA)

Elon Musk on Privatizing Amtrak. In March 2025, Elon Musk publicly called Amtrak a “sad situation.” He went on to suggest that Amtrak must be privatized in order to be saved.

This misguided proposal would fundamentally undermine Amtrak’s dedication to nationwide service and America’s future in high-speed rail.

Question 1: Yes or no: Do you agree with Elon Musk that Amtrak should be privatized?

Answer: If confirmed, my top priority will be to see Amtrak succeed.

Question 2: Yes or no: If confirmed, will you vocally oppose any efforts by Elon Musk or others in this Administration to privatize Amtrak?

Answer: If confirmed, my top priority will be to see Amtrak succeed. That includes exploring the possibility of public-private partnerships and expanded state partnerships.

Amtrak CEO Pushed Out. Amtrak’s former CEO, Stephen Gardner, abruptly resigned in March 2025. He was reportedly pushed out as someone deemed not sufficiently loyal to the White House, five days after he issued a statement supporting the FY2025 \$2.42 billion appropriated to Amtrak. Mr. Gardner’s resignation also happened two weeks after Elon Musk publicly called for Amtrak to be privatized.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you be an independent voice for Amtrak and not simply defer to the White House?

Answer: If confirmed, I will be an independent voice for Amtrak.

Question 2: Yes or no: If confirmed, and the White House directed you to take action that would undermine Amtrak’s success, would you refuse?

Answer: It will be my top priority to see that Amtrak succeeds.

Role in 2020 Presidential Election. Mr. Gleason, in some press reports, you are listed as a false elector for the Trump campaign in Pennsylvania in connection with the 2020 presidential election. I understand you told Committee staff you did not sign a false election certificate.

Question 1: Did you attend any meetings of the Pennsylvania false electors after the 2020 presidential election? If so, please describe the meetings.

Answer: I did not attend any meetings in question.

Question 2: Did you in any way support or participate in the effort to submit false election certificates after the 2020 presidential election?

Answer: No.

Question 3: In a December 2024 interview with *ABC27 News* commenting on the last two presidential elections, you stated: “We lost last time, we won this time, and here we are.” To confirm: Do you believe Joe Biden was lawfully elected President of the United States in 2020?

Answer: President Biden was sworn in as President on January 20,2021.

SENATOR GARY PETERS (D-MI)

1. I mentioned in my opening remarks Michigan Central Station and efforts to expand and improve passenger rail service across Michigan's three passenger lines. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Corridor ID Program has been integral to our state doing the ridership analysis they need to support future expansion. But Corridor ID grants don't mean much if we don't follow them up with investment.
 - a. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that Amtrak sees the additional funding and support it needs to follow up on Corridor ID work to expand passenger rail where appropriate – including in Michigan?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to supporting the Corridor ID program and investments to expand passenger rail where appropriate, including in Michigan.

- b. Do you think cuts and additional barriers to Amtrak's expansion will harm the ability to serve more folks in the Midwest?

Answer: My top priority, if confirmed, is to see Amtrak succeed.

SENATOR BEN RAY LUJÁN (D-NM)

1. In 2023, the Southwest Chief had the second lowest on-time performance rate of all long-distance routes, getting customers to their destinations only 34% of the time. In 2024, there was a modest improvement to on-time performance of 45%. Yes or no, are you committed to advocating for increased funding for the long-distance rail network to address outdated equipment and maintenance issues?

Answer: Yes.

2. Did Joe Biden lawfully win the 2020 presidential election?

Answer: President Biden was sworn in as President on January 20, 2021.

3. Did Donald Trump lawfully win the 2024 presidential election?

Answer: President Trump was sworn in as President on January 20, 2025.

SENATOR LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER (D-DE)

Question 1: While Amtrak ridership numbers have rebounded on the Northeast Corridor, I am deeply concerned about potential cuts to commuter rail service that depends on access to Amtrak-owned infrastructure, especially SEPTA.

If confirmed, how will you work with commuter rail tenants on the Northeast Corridor to ensure regional rail stability?

Answer: If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about this issue. I believe it's important that we have safe and reliable passenger service throughout the country, including in and around Delaware.