

**PREPARED STATEMENT OF SIMON CHARLES GROS
NOMINEE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEBRUARY 7, 2008**

Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Stevens, Members of the Committee, thank you for offering me the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation. I am honored to have been recommended by Secretary Peters and nominated by President Bush to continue my service in the Administration.

I am also grateful and lucky to have enjoyed incredible support from family and friends through the years. I'd especially like to recognize Congressman Frank LoBiondo, my home-town Congressman, for whom I worked when I first came to Washington. And I would be remiss if I failed to thank my parents, Barbara Errickson and Roger Gros, for all of the guidance they have given me. Most importantly, I would never be where I am today if not for the support of my best friend and wife, Natalie.

The primary role of any Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs is to enable effective communication between elected officials at the Federal, State, and local level and the Department. With a little over a year left in this Administration, I believe that this function is more important than ever, especially as Congress, and this Committee in particular, debate legislation critical to the future of our nation's transportation infrastructure. If confirmed, I pledge that my office will remain in constant contact with Congress on all issues affecting the Department. I will be responsive to Congressional inquiries and proactive when communicating Departmental activities. And I will work within the Department to ensure that we comply with both the spirit and the letter of laws passed.

It is indeed a rare honor to serve as Assistant Secretary of Transportation. If confirmed, I will represent the Department with integrity and reliability. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your staff to help make transportation safer and more efficient for all Americans.

Thank you for considering my nomination, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.