

**Testimony of Ms. Robin Wiessmann  
Nominee to the Amtrak Board of Directors  
United States Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee  
Hearing on Nominations, September 7, 2022**

Good morning, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Wicker, and other members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Robin Wiessmann, and I am very pleased to be with you today to explain why I hope to serve on Amtrak's Board of Directors, and what contributions I can make.

My background as a lawyer by training over many years in finance and infrastructure investment is not unusual for a prospective board member. However, while I have considerable board experience, what makes me particularly well suited for the Amtrak Board is my unique background and experience in both the private and public sectors. I view myself as a purpose-driven professional who is dedicated to public service.

I was a founding principal and president of the first women-owned investment banking firm on Wall Street, served as chairman of the board of a mutual fund, and held positions at major investment and securities firms. I have also served as State Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where I was custodian of \$120 billion in public assets, and as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Banking and Securities. Additionally, I have held appointive positions on numerous federal and state boards responsible for financial oversight, securities regulation and economic development.

I currently serve as Executive Director and CEO of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, where I manage operations and direct initiatives that promote development of affordable housing and provide financing for homeownership. In that position and many of the other public sector roles over the years, I have used my extensive experience in bringing together public and private entities on projects intended to achieve public goals, ultimately seeking to produce a return on the private investment, while working with elected officials of both parties.

As a resident of the Philadelphia area who spent many years working on Wall Street and for Pennsylvania's state government, I have been a frequent Amtrak passenger for many decades. However, I have also spent a lot of time working in other parts of the country where passenger

rail service was negligible and cars and sometimes planes were the only option for intercity travel. I appreciate what Amtrak service does for the Northeast, and what it could do in other regions of the country if it received adequate, assured multi-year funding that would allow it to make major investments.

The large increase in funding that last year's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide for Amtrak over the next five years is an important first step in that direction. From my experience in infrastructure finance and in the administration of public funds and projects, I am aware that a large infusion of funding creates accounting, financial and project management challenges for any organization. It is important that Amtrak's Board include members with experience in these areas who can advise, oversee and support the efforts of Amtrak's management to address the welcome challenge of receiving money to begin pursuing long sought goals while ensuring financial accountability, transparency and optimal use of public funding. I can provide that expertise.

The coming years will be an exciting time for Amtrak. If confirmed, I welcome the opportunity to serve on its Board at a particularly relevant time for someone with my experience and background. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.