

Trent Morse, Nominee to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

Opening Statement

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to serve as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. I am deeply grateful for your time and for the courtesies extended by you and your staff throughout this process. Many of you and your staff have shared valuable insights that will guide me in this role, and if confirmed, I look forward to continuing a productive relationship with this Committee.

I would also like to thank Senator Scott for his introduction, and for his support over the years.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to President Trump for nominating me. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to work for him since 2016, and I am humbled by the trust he has placed in me for this important position.

I want to also thank my family, and many of my dear friends who are here with me today or watching online.

I was born and raised in Tampa, Florida and went to both undergraduate and law school at Florida State University. I was always interested in being involved in public service, and in 2010 I applied for my first internship with a newly elected Governor that upended the entire Florida political system. It was from that internship, where I worked my way up to my first job, as a state employee in Governor Rick Scott's office. Those early experiences taught me the importance of public service.

My professional experience includes state, and federal public service, but also the private sector ---which I believe will serve as an asset to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

I am personally passionate about transportation. I am a self-described "aviation" geek. I have worked for a transportation and infrastructure holding company, Florida DOT, and during the first trump administration, I served at USDOT.

I left federal service in September, where I most recently served as Deputy Director of Presidential Personnel, working to oversee the recruitment and hiring of more than 3,200 political appointees across the federal government.

If confirmed, I will work closely with my fellow members of the Board of Directors to ensure that travelers through Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports have complete confidence in their safety and security. The National Capital Region is one of the busiest and most sensitive aviation environments in the country, requiring constant vigilance, coordination, and an unwavering commitment to passenger safety. With recent events at DCA and the plans for continued modernization and expansion, I will uphold the highest standards of safety, ethical integrity, and transparency. The Authority's mission, to ensure that every passenger receives the highest level of safety and customer service, will remain my guiding focus.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority plays a vital role in connecting our nation's capital to the world, supports commerce and tourism—but also is how many of you get home to your family and your constituencies. I want to ensure that this airport system continues to be that critical link, and can be a showcase for our country. We have seen continued investment of the facilities at Reagan (I think we all remember gate Gate35x).

BUT, we must ensure that the international gateway to our nations capital, Dulles, is a world class facility. As of today, there is not a single US international airport ranked in the top 10 airports worldwide. We have an opportunity here. The people mover is a relic of the past. It is an embarrassment that international travelers, when visiting the capital of the most powerful nation in the world— are transported back to 60's. If I have the privilege of being confirmed, I will work tirelessly with my colleagues to make Dulles the airport that we should be proud of.

I am committed to ensuring that MWAA continues to operate responsibly and efficiently while meeting the growing demands of the traveling public and maintaining the highest standards of safety and professionalism.

Once again, I thank the Committee for its consideration of my nomination and for the courtesy extended throughout this process. If confirmed, I will work diligently and collaboratively with this Committee and my fellow Board members to advance the mission of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (and get rid of the people mover). It would be the honor to serve in this position, and I look forward to your questions.