

**Statement by Mark R. Rosekind
Nominee for Member, National Transportation Safety Board
before the
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
November 18, 2009**

Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Hutchison, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to speak with you today and appreciate the opportunity to make a few comments about the NTSB and to address any questions that you may have. First, I would like to thank President Obama for nominating me to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

Before I begin, please let me introduce some special people joining us today: my wife, Dr. Debra Babcock, and viewing in California are my son, Aaron, my daughter, Eve, my mother, Marilyn Rosekind, and my mother-in-law, Lila Babcock. I also would like to thank the other colleagues and friends who have joined us today, including those from the NTSB.

The primary mission of the NTSB is to enhance transportation safety, which touches everyone's life in some way and provides an invaluable contribution to the American people. Today, the NTSB is challenged by an ever-changing world: global, around-the-clock transportation demands continue to increase, operations change to meet these demands, and technology rapidly advances. Given these ongoing changes in the transportation system, it is critical that the NTSB continually evolves and enhances its knowledge, capabilities, and expertise. Chairman Hersman has already provided a vision and initiated actions that acknowledge these issues. She has challenged the men and women of the NTSB to 'raise the bar' and has specifically identified transparency, accountability, and

integrity as initial areas for action. It is important to all Americans that the NTSB remains a leading-edge resource in its never-ending responsibility to enhance transportation safety. If confirmed, I look forward to collaboration with the NTSB's outstanding professionals to pursue every avenue possible to improve the Agency's effectiveness and value.

The classic description of the NTSB is that it is 'the premier accident investigation and recommendation agency in the world.' For more than 40 years, this world-class reputation has been built upon the NTSB's hard work, to reach meaningful outcomes and consistently exceed its mission objectives. In my interactions with the NTSB over the past 15 years, it is clear that like any great institution, the men and women who comprise the agency's extraordinary staff are the core of its success. Every day, these 400 professionals pursue their work and their passion to enhance transportation safety; they are truly the heart and soul of the agency. They understand the unique role of the NTSB as an independent and non-regulatory agency tasked with enhancing transportation safety through meticulous investigations, fact-based and thoughtful recommendations, and the strategic use of its other available tools. The NTSB's success in achieving its mission is meaningful far beyond its findings and recommendations; its efforts translate into highly critical and personal terms: the opportunity to prevent injuries and save lives. It is this objective that drives the men and women of the NTSB to pursue and achieve their mission. Recently, the Board's professionals voted it as one of the best places in government to work; obviously, for many, contributing to the NTSB's mission is their "dream job."

If allowed to serve as a Member on the NTSB, I too will have achieved my “dream job.” My own passion has been to study human fatigue and apply scientific knowledge to improve performance and safety in diverse settings, including all modes of transportation. Fatigue has been on the NTSB’s Most Wanted List since its inception in 1990. Clearly, over the years the NTSB’s findings and my professional endeavors have led us to the same conclusion: that effectively managing fatigue is a critical factor in human performance and transportation safety.

If confirmed, I pledge to President Obama, this Senate Committee, Congress, the men and women of the NTSB, and, most importantly, the American people that I will contribute all of my energy, knowledge, and expertise to further enhance transportation safety. If permitted to serve as a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, it will be a tremendous professional and personal honor to contribute in any way possible to the vital mission of this invaluable agency.

Thank you and I would be pleased to address any questions.