SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Full Committee
Nomination Hearing
Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 10:30 A.M.

REPUBLICAN QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

Leslie Becera

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SENATOR JOHN THUNE (R-SD)

Question 1. Due to mismanagement under the Biden Administration, some projects awarded under the fiscal year (FY) 2022 and 2023 PROTECT discretionary grants were unable to be obligated before the money expired. How will you and your team work to ensure those projects who received commitment for federal support are not left short-changed by this unfortunate outcome?

Answer: The Department is working to obligate available funding under the PROTECT program. The Secretary has expressed support for working with Congress to provide funding to make projects that missed the statutory deadline whole.

Question 2. Regional airports serve as critical connection points for the traveling American public. All too often, these airports suffer from aged air traffic control equipment and towers. How will you work with the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure that tower and equipment upgrades needed at regional airports are addressed in a timely manner?

Answer: Regional airports relieve congestion at major airports, anchor regional supply chains, and deliver a superior passenger experience. The Secretary has set an ambitious deadline to modernize America's air traffic control system, overhaul outdated airport infrastructure, and build world-class airports by 2028. I will continue to communicate with your office to provide updates on these modernization efforts and the impacts to regional airports.