WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LESLIE BECERA
NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES SENATE

NOVEMBER 10, 2026

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 for the position of Assistant Secretary of Government Affairs.

I am grateful to President Trump for his trust in nominating me for this role and to Secretary Duffy for his continued support and confidence in me.

Here with me today is my husband, Austin Becera. He is a public servant as well, working in the House of Representatives for our home state, the Great State of Texas. It is the honor of a lifetime to serve our country here in the Nation's capital and in a few short weeks we look forward to welcoming our first child - Brodie Becera - who will surely follow in his parents' footsteps as a Capitol Hill intern.

I am also here today because of my parents. Through their love, hard work, and sacrifices, they instilled in me a deep sense of purpose and patriotism - values that continue to shape my public service to this day.

My dad, Gary Parker, passed away in May of last year and it is surreal to be sitting in this hearing room today without him given the many hours we spent talking about Washington, D.C. and what happens here. From the time I was a young girl sharing that day's history class lesson to most recently - our evening phone calls during my walk home from work, processing the exciting, exhausting, and historic days of being a congressional staffer. I would not be sitting in this chair today without his support. If he were here today, I have no doubt he would have prepared bios on each of you, watched old hearings, and served as my trusted sounding board for this very testimony. I carry him with me every day and am very thankful to be his daughter.

Over the last 11 months, I have served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs at the Department. I have enjoyed working with you and your offices to communicate the important work of this Administration to prioritize safety, promote connectivity, and accelerate project delivery.

Previously, I worked for Congressman Sam Graves, advising him over the years on nearly every issue area under the sun until I finally settled on one - transportation. I have benefited greatly from his 26 years of service - he has taught me how to build consensus, treat challenges as opportunities, and navigate the legislative process. I am thankful for his mentorship and the mentorship of his trusted staff over the years including Paul Sass, Jack Ruddy, Nick Christensen, and Abigail Wenk.

Having served as a committee staffer, I share a deep affinity for your work and this committee's important role in conducting oversight and setting policy. If confirmed, I commit to serving as a trusted liaison between the Congress and the Department of Transportation, ensuring robust and timely responses to your inquiries. I understand that in answering to you and your staff, I am ultimately accountable to the American people and take my oath to faithfully serve them very seriously.

The Office of Government Affairs is entrusted to serve as the primary advocate not only for Congress, but also for state and local governments. It is mission-critical that the transportation needs, priorities, and concerns of all elected officials are effectively communicated to the Secretary as he works to implement policy that is in the best interest of the American public.

If confirmed, I will lead the Office of Government Affairs with an approach that prioritizes proactive communication, timely and substantive responses, full transparency, and a spirit of collaboration. There is so much work to do and I am eager to work closely with this committee to address the critical infrastructure needs of our country.

In closing, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am happy to answer your questions.