

Vice Chairman Mulvey's Opening Statement
Feb. 11, 2009

STB Ex Parte No. 683: Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008

Thank you Chairman Nottingham. Good morning and welcome to our panelists and other attendees today.

I have been a student of Amtrak's operations and history virtually from its establishment. I wrote my doctoral thesis on Amtrak's economic future back in the early 1970's when Amtrak was first getting started, and I held an internship at the Federal Railroad Administration during which I worked on Amtrak-related issues. I have followed Amtrak closely ever since, both professionally and personally.

I am honored that Congress has given the Board additional responsibilities with respect to Amtrak -- and the commuter railroads -- through the Act, as I believe the agency has played a vital role in passenger rail routings and operations in the past. We will continue to do so.

This hearing is one of the first steps in what will be a continuing dialogue on our implementation of our additional statutory responsibilities. I look forward to the discussion we will have today, and to the work in which our staff and that of FRA, Amtrak and other stakeholders will engage in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you very much.