

STATEMENT OF JAMES B. BUSEY, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATOR-
DESIGNATE, BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION, CONCERNING HIS NOMINATION TO SERVE AS
ADMINISTRATOR. JUNE 14, 1989.

Mr. Chairman, may I introduce my wife and partner, Jean, who is here with me today. May I next thank the distinguished Senators from Illinois and Arizona who so graciously consented to introduce me: Senators Dixon and Simon from my home state and Senator McCain, a long-time Navy friend whose courage, determination, and abilities I hold in the highest regard. Thank you Senators.

Mr. Chairman, I am deeply honored at having been nominated by President Bush to serve as FAA Administrator, and I am very pleased to be here today. I want to express my personal regrets over the length of time it took for me to be relieved from my duties overseas so that I could return to the U.S., retire from the United States Navy, and make myself available for this new opportunity. I hope that the Members of the Committee will understand that this time factor does not, in any way, reflect my interest in the opportunity to serve as Administrator.

I cannot think of a finer organization with which to serve than the FAA. Over the years, I have come into contact with the FAA on many occasions, and I have always been impressed with the professionalism shown by FAA employees and their commitment to

safety. If confirmed, I intend to work with the wealth of knowledge of these wonderful agency employees and to try my best to ensure that they are provided the leadership and resources necessary for them to do their jobs--people will be one of my top priorities within the FAA.

I am committed as well to working closely with all facets of the aviation community. I intend to meet with, and become familiar with, all aviation interest groups. I will listen to their inputs and contributions. I am convinced that, together, we can continue to expand and improve our air transportation system and maintain world leadership in aviation.

If confirmed, I also intend to involve myself early on in the management of the National Airspace System Plan. The modernization of our system is critical for reasons of safety and efficiency, and it will be my goal to bring the products of the NAS Plan on line as expeditiously as possible and within budget. I have worked with the acquisition and management of major programs before and will bring that experience to bear on this challenging task. I look forward to the chance to take a closer look at the FAA's procurement processes and believe that my background can help make a positive contribution in this area.

I know of this Committee's strong interest in working to improve

civil aviation security, and I share your commitment. My time overseas has given me a personal perspective of the threat of terrorism, and I will do all that I can to see that the American travelling public is protected from that threat.

I also want to assure you that, if I am confirmed, safety will remain the highest priority in the FAA. Throughout my career, I have always emphasized the need for safer systems, safer aircraft, and safer ways of doing business. I will bring that firm commitment to safety with me to the FAA and will work to build on what I truly believe is the strongest aviation safety foundation in the world.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of this Committee in the aviation safety area, and to assure you that, if confirmed, I will work closely with the Members of this Committee to achieve further safety improvements.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you or the Members of the Committee might have.