

**Testimony of David Hughes  
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, Amtrak  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
Subcommittee on Railroads  
Hearing on Current Governance Issues at Amtrak  
November 15, 2005**

Good morning. My name is David Hughes and up until a few days ago I served as the Chief Engineer for Amtrak. On Wednesday of last week, I accepted an offer by the Board of Directors to serve in an interim capacity as the President and Chief Executive Officer.

While I have been a member of Amtrak's senior management for the past 3½ years, I have been in the railroad industry for more than 30 years. Fundamentally, I believe that passenger rail is an important aspect of our nation's multimodal transportation network, and I will work to the best of my ability to continue to advance the goals and objectives of Amtrak to provide safe and reliable passenger rail service for our customers.

Many of you are familiar with the Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRI) that Amtrak released earlier this year. I was directly involved in the creation of these reform initiatives and I will see to it that during my tenure as President and CEO, no matter how long, Amtrak will work to advance the policy objectives set forth in the plan.

Please rest assured that despite this time of transition, Amtrak employees will continue to strive to maintain the highest levels of service and safety for our passengers. At the same time, we will endeavor to look for creative ideas to foster more competition, improve operational efficiencies, and return the railroad to a state-of-good-repair. The challenges are many, but given adequate resources and the continuing support of Congress, we can and will pursue the goals set forth in the SRI and help fulfill the objective that rail passenger service will remain an important transportation alternative for the American people now and in the future.