

Equal Opportunity Policy Statement

May 2001

The U.S. Department of Transportation has a vital mission to accomplish for the Nation – one that cannot be accomplished without the talent, dedication and skill of the men and women who carry out our work. Each of us who works at the Department bears two fundamental obligations: first, to do our own jobs to the best of our ability and, equally important, to ensure that our coworkers and those we supervise are given the respectful, supportive environment that allows them to do theirs.

Our commitment to equal employment opportunity is the cornerstone of that effort. When any employee or job applicant is denied equal opportunity on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, disability, or sexual orientation, the work of this Department suffers. Opportunities for achievement are lost, and the ability of employees to reach their full potential is jeopardized.

It is our strict obligation to eliminate all barriers to equal opportunity for employees of the Department's workforce, applicants for employment, and for beneficiaries of the Department's programs, services, and activities.

President Bush has emphasized that our goal must be that of a welcoming society – a Nation where no one is dismissed or forgotten. That is our mandate at the Department, as well. I ask that each of us, as employees and as managers, join in the work of building a Department in which everyone, our colleagues and our customers, are given the equal opportunity to succeed and contribute.

Norman Y. Mineta