



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 25, 2004

Message for Women's Equality Day

On August 26, 2004, our Nation will celebrate the 84th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. This amendment granted women the right to vote.

Women political leaders and policymakers are proving that they are more than equal to the task of guiding and leading our Nation in all branches and at every level of government, as well as in the private sector. Since Hattie Wyatt Caraway became the first woman to win election to the U.S. Senate in 1932, there has been a steady increase each year in the number of women holding public office. Currently, women hold 14 of the U.S. Senate and 63 of the U.S. House of Representatives seats – or 14% of both houses. President George W. Bush has appointed women to top cabinet and sub-cabinet positions in his Administration, and Condoleezza Rice serves as the first female National Security Advisor to the President of the United States. These women have made a difference in our society, providing hope and a sense of possibility to countless others.

Here at the U.S. Department of Transportation, women lead organizations that comprise over 90% of the Department's workforce. They include Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters; Federal Transit Administrator Jenna Dorn; Annette Sandberg, head of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Acting Federal Railroad Administrator Betty Monro; Marion Blakey, the first woman to chair the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and now head of the Federal Aviation Administration; Ellen Engleman was Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration and succeeded Marion Blakey as Chair of the NTSB. All of these women have been trail-blazers throughout their distinguished careers.

The Department continues to broaden its efforts to attract talented women into our ranks. We are able to serve the American people better as our workforce becomes more diverse at all levels across the Department. Thus, I encourage each of you to join me in attracting women to our workforce and providing access to employment opportunities for those seeking transportation careers. We at the Department can be the light that encourages and inspires others to strive for unprecedented heights of achievement in the industry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Y. Mineta', is positioned above the printed name.

Norman Y. Mineta