



July 9, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the American Bus Association (ABA), I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Derrek Barrs to serve as Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Founded in 1926, ABA is the leading national trade association representing the private motorcoach and group travel industries. Our members provide environmentally efficient, safe, and vital transportation to hundreds of millions of passengers each year across intercity, charter, tour, and commuter services. The industry encompasses a wide range of operators—from small, family-owned companies to large national carriers—serving both rural and urban communities alike.

ABA has a long history of constructive engagement with FMCSA on issues ranging from vehicle safety and regulatory compliance to workforce development, educational outreach and emergency response coordination. We believe Mr. Barrs' background—as a seasoned law enforcement official and elected transportation industry representative within a national trade association—positions him exceptionally well to lead the agency during a pivotal time. He brings a steady, pragmatic approach to safety oversight, and stakeholder engagement that is both collaborative and grounded in real-world understanding.

As we look ahead, ABA is eager to work with Administrator Barrs on key priorities critical to the motorcoach industry's safe and sustainable future, including:

- **Ensuring Appropriate Regulatory Distinctions:** Motorcoach operations differ significantly from freight trucking. FMCSA policy must reflect the unique safety and operational profile of passenger carriers.



AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION

Representing the motorcoach, tour and travel industry

- Maintaining Federal Preemption in Driver Hours Rules: A consistent national framework is essential to protect safety, reduce legal uncertainty, and avoid conflicting state mandates.
- Reconsideration of Speed Limiter Mandates: We support efforts to withdraw or revise proposals that would impose truck-based speed restrictions on motorcoach carriers.
- Improving Implementation of English Language Proficiency Rules: Greater clarity and consistency in enforcement would help support safety without compounding workforce challenges.
- Reinvesting in FMCSA's Passenger Carrier Division: Strengthening leadership and staff capacity is vital to improving outreach, oversight, and engagement with the passenger sector.

We look forward to engaging directly with Administrator Barrs and FMCSA leadership in the weeks ahead and building a strong, solutions-oriented partnership to advance shared goals around safety, accessibility, and regulatory clarity.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Barrs' nomination. ABA stands ready to support the Committee's work and contribute industry-informed insights to help FMCSA fulfill its mission.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Ferguson", written in a cursive style.

Fred Ferguson
President & CEO
American Bus Association