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SPECIAL BULLETIN 17 – 02

January 31, 2017

ELAINE CHAO CONFIRMED AS TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY

Earlier today, Ms. Elaine Chao was confirmed easily by the U.S. Senate to serve as President Trump's transportation secretary.

The Senate voted 93 – 6 to approve Ms. Chao, who will now oversee the country's transportation network and infrastructure. She is expected to play a key role in helping the President push a \$1 trillion infrastructure package through Congress to upgrade roads, bridges, public transportation and other systems.

Chao has significant experience in transportation policy, having worked at the Agency as Deputy Administrator of the Maritime Administration starting in 1986 and then as deputy transportation secretary under President George H.W. Bush between 1989 and 1991. In 2001, Chao served as labor secretary for the entire presidency of George W. Bush.

It is not known how soon Secretary Chao will appoint her administrative deputies, including the PHMSA administrator. In the past, the PHMSA administrator has been one of last to be confirmed. If this pattern holds, the PHMSA position will be open for up to six months.