



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 21, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:


This letter constitutes the annual report that is required by Section 6(b)(2) of the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act (Public Law 108-426). The report details the status of the one open safety recommendation issued by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General (OIG), as listed in the OIG report developed in response to Section 6(a)(1) of the law.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) open NTSB safety recommendation from 2004 requires "periodic nondestructive testing to be conducted on nurse tanks to identify material flaws that could develop and grow during a tank's service and result in a tank failure." PHMSA, in coordination with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and industry representatives, initiated a cargo tank working group that includes nondestructive testing of nurse tanks, or alternatives, among the items under consideration for rulemaking. FMCSA has overseen the research and is finalizing its report. PHMSA will continue to update NTSB on the status of this recommendation. Additionally, all OIG recommendations have been completed.

The Department works diligently to close NTSB safety recommendations by exercising a variety of regulatory and nonregulatory approaches, within the timelines allowed by technical assessment, notice and comment rulemaking, public comment, and due diligence.

Similar letters have been sent to the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Sincerely,


Elaine L. Chao



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 21, 2017

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

Dear Senator Nelson:


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Similar letters have been sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Sincerely,


Elaine L. Chao



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elaine L. Chao", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Elaine L. Chao



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:


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Similar letters have been sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Sincerely,


Elaine L. Chao



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elaine L. Chao", is positioned above the printed name.

Elaine L. Chao



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pallone:

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Elaine L. Chao