



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Office of the Chairman

July 21, 2009

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is with mixed emotions that today I submit my resignation as Acting Chairman and Member of the National Transportation Safety Board effective at the confirmation and appointment of my successor as Chairman and of an additional Board Member to ensure a quorum.

Since March 21, 2003, I have been privileged to serve on the Safety Board as Chairman, Acting Chairman or Vice Chairman as well as a Member. During this time, the Board has investigated and determined the probable cause of some of the most challenging and deadliest transportation accidents that have occurred during the agency's 42-year history. As a result of our findings and recommendations, significant improvements have been adopted, either by the Federal government, local government, operating companies, manufacturers or individual operators that have raised the bar of safety in all of the Nation's major transportation modes.

I am particularly proud of the dedicated, wonderful men and women who make up the staff of this small but highly respected and effective Federal agency. On call 24/7, 365 days a year, each and every one of our professional investigators and support staff provide our nation a unique and important capability that is the envy of our counterpart agencies around the world.

After nearly nine years of service to our Nation beginning January 20, 2001 as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Military Office and then being nominated by President Bush and unanimously confirmed by the Senate on three separate occasions for appointments to the NTSB, it is time to return to private life.

Mr. President, I must honestly say that the opportunity to serve in and lead this incredible agency has been the highlight of my entire 40-year professional life. It is an agency that truly makes a positive difference every day, saving lives by preventing accidents, not only in our great Nation, but around the world.

I will always be extremely grateful to President Bush for the confidence and support he placed in me by his appointments to two critically important positions within his Administration. I am also proud of my service for the last eight months in your Administration.

I will sorely miss my friends and colleagues at this great agency, but I am buoyed by the fact that I leave an organization to my successor that enjoys high morale, an excellent reputation and was recently voted by Federal employees one of the "Top 10 Best Places to Work in Federal Government."

Mr. President, I wish you and your Administration tremendous success as you lead our Nation through these trying times to a safe, secure and brighter future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark V. Rosenker". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark V. Rosenker
Acting Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board