



From Your National Officers

February 1, 2017

NAPA members and friends:

Elaine Chao was confirmed by the Senate to become the 18th U.S. Secretary of Transportation on Jan. 31. By early afternoon, Ms. Chao had already sent a message to employees in the DOT thanking them for making the transition to new leadership "a smooth one." She also said she was looking forward to "working with you once again to ensure that the safety and efficiency of our country's transportation systems are second to none." This will be her third tour at Transportation (she was Deputy Secretary of Transportation from 1989-1991 and some of our members remember working for her). With this announcement, FAA Administrator Michael Huerta, who had been acting as DOT-1 since Secretary Foxx departed, will turn his attention back to the FAA full time.

Ms. Chao has often been the first Asian American/Pacific Islander to fill the positions in which she served. She has a long history leading in public service -- White House Fellow, Transportation, Labor, Peace Corps, and the Federal Maritime Commission, to name a few. When Ms. Chao was appointed Secretary of Labor, serving in the Bush Administration from 2001 to 2009, she became the first Asian American woman to serve in the U.S. Cabinet.

For those of you who keep track of factoids, **Ms. Chao's appointment means that for the first time since 2014, there will be a Cabinet member with an AAPI background leading in government.** The Transportation Department is now helmed by a second AAPI Secretary (Norman Mineta, who served from 2001 to 2006, was the first AAPI DOT-1).

NAPA is working with the DOT's Asian Pacific American Employee Council on a proper welcome and introduction of our organizations. A few of you have already approached the leadership team to offer help -- thanks! If you have ideas, please feel free to send them our way!

Warm regards,
Anthony

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