

I offer these comments on your letter in hopes that they will be useful to you and your colleagues in considering Dr. Satcher's nomination to this important post.

Sincerely,

HAROLD VARMUS, M.D.,  
*Director, NIH.*

#### INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to join Senator BYRD and others who were speaking today in support of prompt action on an issue of major importance to the country—the ISTEAs reauthorization that will set the country's course for the next six years on transportation policy and investments.

I noticed the majority leader had indicated that there were some differences about the consideration of that proposal last year.

But the fact of the matter remains that when I look over what we are involved in outside of the Dr. Satcher nomination, it seems that we certainly would have the opportunity for the consideration of the ISTEAs reauthorization. And looking over the anticipated schedule, I would think that we could deal with this, and deal with it appropriately, certainly before the February recess. I don't know what else has been placed on the schedule prior to that time next week. Certainly we would make time for any kind of consideration or resolution on the issues of Iraq. But barring that, it would seem to me that reauthorization could be dealt with by that particular time.

This debate has major ramifications, not only for the Nation's transportation system, but for the economy and the environment.

What Congress does with this legislation will, in many ways, define the degree to which communities across the country will be able to take full advantage of the possibilities for economic development and growth in the years ahead. Without a modern, safe and efficient transportation network, America's businesses can't compete as efficiently, America's cities can't be revitalized as effectively, and America's families will lose valuable time in the daily struggle to move from home to work, and carry out all the other responsibilities of daily life.

This legislation will also have a major impact on the environment, as we debate what direction the law should take. A major goal is to preserve and strengthen the innovative intermodal approach established under the original ISTEAs, including special emphasis on public transit, the Conges-

tion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, bikeways and other initiatives that enhance the quality of life in our communities.

I hope we will be able to build on the original ISTEAs law, sustaining its innovative programs and laying the foundation for greater economic growth. To do that, we need to make a substantially larger investment that will address the many urgent transportation needs facing the country, and also facing my own State of Massachusetts that has some very special needs.

I commend Senator BYRD for his extraordinary leadership on all of these vital infrastructure issues. The amendment he proposed last fall will make a significant difference for all states, enabling us to meet all of the new challenges more effectively.

I think he makes a compelling case. Let the Senate make its judgments. Let the Senate decide. It is difficult to justify and say we are not going to let the Senate decide because we might have the votes for a particular position, which is at least partly delaying the opportunity to consider the legislation.

We can't afford to have this important debate drag on into the months ahead. The country's transportation needs are urgent and can't wait. We should take up the ISTEAs legislation and complete action on it promptly, to avoid paralysis in critical ongoing work involving transportation construction, public transit operations, traffic safety programs, and other issues that demand attention.

Mr. President, I may have more to say on this subject. I know that the Senate is anxious to recess in order to hear the full report of the Secretary of State.

So I will yield at this time and hope that the Senate will follow the leader's motion for adjournment.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in adjournment until 11 a.m. on Monday, February 9.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:52 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 9, 1998, at 11 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate February 5, 1998:

##### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ELIGAH DANE CLARK, OF ALABAMA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE CHARLES L. CRAGIN.

##### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEITH C. KELLY, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION, VICE GRANT BUNTROCK.

##### STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

ROBERT A. MILLER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2000, VICE DAVID ALLEN BROCK, TERM EXPIRED.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### *To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. FRED E. ELLIS, 0000.  
BRIG. GEN. EDWARD R. JAYNE II, 0000.  
BRIG. GEN. CARL A. LORENZEN, 0000.  
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. PLATT, 0000.  
BRIG. GEN. JOHN H. SMITH, 0000.  
BRIG. GEN. IRENE TROWELL-HARRIS, 0000.

##### *To be brigadier general*

COL. WILLIAM E. BONNELL, 0000.  
COL. EDWARD H. GREENE II, 0000.  
COL. ROBERT H. HARKINS III, 0000.  
COL. JAMES W. HIGGINS, 0000.  
COL. ROBERT F. HOWARTH, JR., 0000.  
COL. THOMAS C. HRUBY, 0000.  
COL. RICHARD S. KENNEY, 0000.  
COL. PHIL P. LEVENTIS, 0000.  
COL. CHARLES A. MORGAN III, 0000.  
COL. JERRY W. RAGSDALE, 0000.  
COL. LAWRENCE D. RUSCONI, 0000.  
COL. RICHARD H. SANTORO, 0000.  
COL. WAYNE L. SCHULTZ, 0000.  
COL. RALPH S. SMITH, JR., 0000.  
COL. RONALD C. SZARLAN, 0000.  
COL. JAMES K. WILSON, 0000.  
COL. RUTH A. WONG, 0000.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### *To be brigadier general*

COL. JOHN W. BERGMAN, 0000.  
COL. JOHN J. MCCARTHY, JR., 0000.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 5, 1998:

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 154:

##### *To be general*

GEN. JOSEPH W. RALSTON, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS R. CASE, 0000.

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### *To be brigadier general*

COL. MICHAEL J. SQUIER, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### *To be brigadier general*

COL. ROBERT L. ECHOLS, 0000.