

Closing Statement

In closing, I would like to recognize the hard work of the NTSB staff in this investigation. I also want to thank my colleagues for good debate and discussion.

The recommendations we've adopted and reiterated today, if acted on, will result in the FRA moving forward on its System Safety Program rule. Today's recommendations will also result in far-reaching changes at Amtrak.

In the wake of an accident, an ineffective safety culture can be more elusive to identify than the individual errors that are its symptoms. Furthermore, it can be much more easily recognized than rectified.

But as difficult as it might be for Amtrak to change its safety culture, the potential safety benefit to Amtrak's employees and riders cannot be overstated. But, I also believe that today's discussion and the report the Board approved today will provide an excellent case study that can be used to improve safety across other railroads and other modes of transportation.

We stand adjourned.

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