

**Opening Statement for Jose Francisco Teran**  
**Nominee for Director of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)**  
U.S. Senate Banking Committee

**May 13, 2003**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Jose Francisco Teran, born in Nicaragua and a citizen of the United States of America since 1989.

It is a great honor to have been nominated by President George W. Bush to be a director of the National Institute of Building Sciences.

Today I come before you to make a brief statement of what I believe to be my qualifications for this position, and thank the Members of the Committee for your review of my nomination and allowing me to appear before you this morning.

My story, as it relates to this nomination, starts with a quality primary and secondary education at the Christian Brothers and Jesuits schools in Nicaragua. It was at this time that I laid the four pillars for my intellectual life: Mathematics, Science, Philosophy and Art. For this reason I decided to become an architect.

I had my university training as a freshman at Wilson Teachers College, Catholic University of America and American University. I spent five more years to get my Bachelor and Master of Architecture degrees at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I have taken the Harvard sponsored course in advanced management at INCAE.

Upon graduation I was invited to join the design team of Minoru Yamasaki in Birmingham, Michigan. I worked intensely under the guidance of Gunnar Birkerts. At that time I was in the teams that designed the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, the Wayne State University College of Education, the first international airport in Dahrhan, Saudi Arabia and The Michigan Consolidated Gas Company Building in Detroit

I then went back to Nicaragua and between 1960 and 1979 formed the largest architectural, engineering, construction, industrial and financial group of companies. Buildings such as the Ruben Dario National Theatre, the INCAE-Harvard campus, the Central Bank Building, the National Light and Power Company building and many other office, hotel and hospital projects were successfully planned and constructed in the country. Over 14,000 single family, low cost houses were produced in model communities with the assistance of the Agency for International Development.

I came with my family to Houston in 1980 to work for a small developer. Several office and commercial projects were developed. In 1984 I founded my own company, Natex Corporation that has operated continuously to this day. Two separate activities were the

key targets of Natex: Real Estate Development and Management and Architecture. One of the most important projects was the coordination and technical direction of the Managua Metropolitan Cathedral donated by Thomas S. Monghan, owner of Domino's Pizza, in 1993. This project designed by Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico won the 1994 Award from the American Institute of Architects.

I have been a team member of my life. I highly value the benefits of working together with others. I have been in the private sector all my life but I have had interesting interactions with all sectors of government, both in the United States and abroad.

I value highly the purpose of the institution I have been nominated to serve. The National Institute of Building Sciences' mission to join the private and government sectors to improve the regulatory environment and allow the faster and more efficient incorporation of technology into our building process is of utmost importance to the welfare of our people. It is of particular importance today as the problems of homeland security soar with the terrorist threats.

I am perseverant and like to see results. I strive for the highest level of quality, to the best of my ability in what I do.

Again, many thanks for your consideration. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.