

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
CHAIRMAN

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
PAUL W. HODES, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JOHN P. SARBANES, MARYLAND
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
TTY (202) 225-6852

<http://oversight.house.gov>

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
BRIAN P. BILBRAY, CALIFORNIA
BILL SALI, IDAHO

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DANNY K. DAVIS AT THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEARING ON “THE POSTAL SERVICE: PLANNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.”

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Ranking Member Marchant, members of the Subcommittee, and hearing witnesses, welcome to the Subcommittee’s hearing on the infrastructure and realignment of the United States Postal Service (the Postal Service). Today’s hearing will examine the Postal Service’s efforts to update outdated mail delivery standards and how it intends to realign its infrastructure through consolidating operations and closing annexes.

The Postal Service’s delivery performance standards and results are central to its mission of providing reliable and efficient postal service. Standards are essential to setting realistic expectations for delivery performance and expectations. Timely and reliable reporting of performance results is essential for oversight, transparency and accountability.

Mail delivery standards are important so the Postal Service and officials can monitor the progress of mail delivery in cities like Chicago that are working to improve mail service. The Postal Service has informed me that based on an increased focus on mail processing and delivery performance, Chicago performance scores are showing a positive trend. The Postal Service, recognizing the importance of the timely delivery of mail, has integrated performance targets and results for some types of mail into its performance management system. However, all mail should be subject to mail delivery standards.

A decline in First-Class Mail due to increased competition and shifts in population demographics has resulted in the Postal Service examining ways to realign its infrastructure. I am interested in hearing how the Postal Service intends to realign its workforce, processing and distribution infrastructure to address these concerns.

At the request of me and other Members of Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has completed its report on the Postal Service's realignment efforts. The report, entitled, "U.S. Postal Service: Mail Processing Realignment Efforts Under Way Need Better Integration and Explanation," discusses, among other things, the need for the Postal Service to establish measurable targets to meet cost savings goals and establish criteria for selecting facilities for consolidation and realignment. The report will be released today and will contribute greatly to today's discussion.

Thank you and I look forward to the testimony of today's witnesses.