

**Statement of Senator Thomas R. Carper**  
**October 18, 2007**

The committee will come to order.

I am pleased to be able to serve as chairman today as the committee as we consider the nomination of Ellen Williams to be a member of the Board of Governors at the United States Postal Service.

As just about everyone here today probably knows, the Postal Service finds itself in the midst of a new age of sorts.

Until very recently, the Postal Service had been operating under a business model created to serve the 1970s economy.

But since the 1970s, our country has grown. The number of postal customers has also grown but so has competition from private sector businesses like UPS and FedEx and from technologies like cell phones, fax machines, e-mails, and electronic bill pay.

With this in mind, Senator Collins and I and a number of our colleagues in the House and the Senate worked for years to enact the first major reforms of the Postal Service in decades.

Our bill will not convince people to give up e-mail and return to written correspondence as their primary means of communication. What it will do is shore up the Postal Service's finances in the long term and give postal managers the tools they need to price and market their products like any business would.

So it is important – perhaps now more than ever – that the Postal Service have good leadership.

Ms. Williams, you have provided some of that leadership in your current capacity. I'm pleased that you've shown an interest in continuing in your position. I look forward to hearing from you today about what your priorities would be as Governor and how you would work with your colleagues to implement the reform bill and to add value to the products and services postal employees provide each day.