

Opening Statement of Senator Thomas R. Carper

- Today, we'll be considering the nomination of Ruth Goldway to be a member of the Postal Regulatory Commission.
- Commissioner Goldway, your nomination, as you know, comes at a difficult time for the Postal Service. The economic slowdown we've found ourselves in has hurt a number of families and business but it hit the Postal Service early and hard. Mail volume is poor and the Service is on track, I understand, to suffer significant losses this year.

- Even more troubling than that is the possibility that some of the mail volume that the Postal Service has lost as a result of the slowing economy could be lost for good. The number of communications options available to postal customers continues to increase - and grow easier to use, as well.
- But this could also a time of great opportunity for the Postal Service.

- The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act has been the law of the land for more than a year now. And we're starting to see some real benefits as a result.
- The Postal Service is able to respond to the market and change prices using a streamlined ratemaking process. It is my hope that this new rate system can be used in the coming years to offer customers some level of predictability and to be more competitive in the advertising and mailing markets.

- We also have a new set of service standards for most postal products that I hope will make the Postal Service more relevant and more valuable to customers that now have a lot of other communications options.
- All of this makes it vitally important that we have strong, experienced leadership not just at the Postal Service, but at the Postal Regulatory Commission as well.
- The Commission can play a key role in helping the Postal Service through the challenges it faces. In some ways, they can do this simply by standing back and

letting the Postal Service take advantage of the commercial opportunities Congress has given it.

- The Commission must also ensure that the Postal Service is acting in compliance with the law and fulfilling its service obligations.
- Commissioner Goldway, you have now served two terms on the Commission and have worked under the old law and the new law. I appreciate your willingness to continue your service and use your experience to help your colleagues and the Postal Service navigate through the challenging years ahead.