Statement of Tony Hammond to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee October 2, 2013

Thank you, Senator Carper.

First, I would like to express my appreciation to you and Dr. Coburn for scheduling this hearing to consider our nominations to continue as members of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

I appreciate the confidence President Obama has placed in me with this nomination, as well as the support I have received from Senate Minority Leader McConnell during this process.

Also, I especially want to thank Senator Roy Blunt for his willingness to be here today to introduce me to this Committee. I am grateful for his comments and the support he has given to my re-nomination.

Much has changed since my original appointment to the old Postal Rate Commission in 2002. The PRC acquired enhanced responsibilities with the passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act in 2006, which required a major revamping of our agency functions. Because of the hard work and cooperation among the Commissioners and staff, the transformation into a new agency was achieved in a responsible and effective manner in keeping with the mandates of the PAEA.

I was pleased to be actively involved in all the transition activities of the Commission. First among them was the requirement that the PRC implement an entirely new ratemaking system, which we actually completed several months in advance of the deadline.

The Commission also provided the Report on the Universal Postal Service and the Postal Monopoly to the Congress on time as mandated by the PAEA.

Each year, the PRC is also responsible for our Annual Report to the President and the Congress, which among other things, contains the current estimated value of the monopolies and the estimated cost of the USO.

We also continue to produce the comprehensive Annual Compliance Determination (ACD), which is the ongoing mechanism for providing accountability, transparency, and oversight of the Postal Service.

Recently, I have advocated for reforming our regulations to better assure that our Advisory Opinions are both relevant and timely. I especially appreciate, Chairman Carper, the interest you have shown in this matter and the suggestions you provided to the Commission for improvement of the process. I hope we are able to finalize the proposed new regulations governing the issuance of Advisory Opinions in the near future.

As Members of this Committee know, the Postal Service is dealing with multiple challenges. Because of that, the Postal Regulatory Commission has an extra responsibility to adjudicate fairly, in a professional and timely manner, all the Decisions on every case that comes before us.

For ten years now, I have enjoyed the challenging work at the Commission. I hope this Committee will look favorably on my experience in considering my nomination to an additional term on the PRC.

Mr. Chairman, thank you, again, for this opportunity. I will be happy to respond to any questions you and your colleagues have.