

Opening Statement of Thomas G. Day
Nominee, Commissioner, Postal Regulatory Commission
September 21, 2023

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Paul, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my qualifications to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission. I would like to thank President Biden for the opportunity he has afforded me through this nomination, and I am honored by his trust.

My wife Young joined me today at this important event in our lives together. We just recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. Our two sons, Bill and Jim, and their wives Lindsey and Gabi, nor our 5 grandchildren could not join us today. I am very thankful to my family for all the support they provided through the years.

My entire adult life has been in service to my country in either the U.S. Army or the U.S. Postal Service. A three-generation tradition in my family, with both my father and grandfather having spent their working careers as employees of the Post Office and as members of the American Postal Workers Union. I have always prided myself in serving in the Federal Government and I look forward to this opportunity to do it again.

My experience at the Postal Service is at every level of management; from front-line supervisor to Senior Vice President and everything in between. My experience has been in a wide array of functional areas including Delivery, Customer Service, Processing, Transportation, Maintenance, Engineering, Government Relations, Public Affairs, Information Systems, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability.

As an officer of the Postal Service, I had frequent interaction with the Commissioners and the staff of the Regulatory Commission. In this role, I understood the need for cooperation and engagement between the Postal Service and the Regulatory Commission to ensure decisions were made in an appropriate and timely manner.

I also was the Chair of the Standards Board at the Universal Postal Union (UPU) from 2007 – 2011. The UPU is the United Nations agency with responsibility for the oversight of the exchange of mail and packages among Postal Operators on a global basis. In addition, I also served as the Chief Commercial and Chief Financial Officer of International Post Corporation (IPC) based in Brussels Belgium. The IPC is a not-for-profit organization that is comprised of 25

Postal Operators, including the US Postal Service, which represents almost 80% of the global mail volume.

These experiences at both the UPU and the IPC have provided me with a broad perspective into a variety of postal operators around the world. I have seen first-hand the success and failure of both operations and data management at a variety of Posts.

My experience in the Postal Service and interactions with other Posts is an excellent fit to serve as a Commissioner at the Regulatory Commission. I can fully grasp the issues at hand and how they may impact service standards and performance measurement, potential cross-subsidization, transparency, and accountability. This is in keeping with the legislatively defined role of the Regulatory Commission.

This is a critical time for the Postal Service. It is certainly the most momentous change the Postal Service has experienced since it was created from the old Post Office Department in 1970. The legislation that first created the Postal Service in 1970, also created the Postal Regulatory Commission. The various updates to Title 39 have continued to emphasize the importance of an independent Regulator. The role of the Regulator is clear – rate regulation, service standards and service performance, to ensure fair competition and to enforce the transparency and accountability of the Postal Service.

This critical time for the Postal Service comes from more than a decade of transition that is the result of the impact of e-communications and e-commerce. E-Communications has directly impacted the ongoing decline of First-Class Mail volume – formerly the very core of the Postal Service network, as well as the source of critical income. E-Commerce has resulted in the extensive use of on-line shopping and the need to effectively manage the processing, transport, and delivery of these items. In turn, there is also a need for an effective network that can manage the items that are being returned. Because of the dramatic decrease in traditional mail volumes, combined with the increase in package volume, there is an absolute need to modify the postal network.

The Delivering for America (DFA) 10-year plan is the Postal Service effort to modify the network. I agree there is a need to make a modification. In keeping with the legislative direction provided in Title 39, it is essential that the Postal Regulatory Commission provide the oversight to ensure that the implementation of DFA is accomplished in a manner that it provides fair competition, accountability, and transparency.

I am uniquely qualified to serve as a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission. My educational training, combined with experience in the domestic and global Postal sector, provides me with the ability to understand the issues of importance in the Postal Service. I am committed to working with the Postal Service and all its key stakeholders to find the optimal practical solutions to create a Postal System to best serve our country. I am honored to have been considered to serve in this role and hope that you will confirm my nomination so that I may do so.