

**Statement of Senator Tom Coburn**  
**“Investing in an Effective Federal Workforce”**  
**U.S. Senate**  
**Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**  
**February 13, 2013**  
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I would like to thank Chairman Carper for holding this important hearing today. Given the fiscal challenges facing the United States Postal Service, it is fitting our first hearing as Chairman and Ranking Member will focus on the solutions necessary to strengthen and preserve this key American institution. We should not delay giving the Postal Service the ability it needs to ensure a vibrant, successful future.

I also want to thank Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings for their testimony and hard work on this issue. I would like to point out that I voted against the postal reform bill coming out of the Senate last Congress because I thought it lacked some of the essential reforms that are required to solve the problems facing the Postal Service. However, be assured I am firmly committed to securing a compromise bill that will pass both chambers.

If we hope to succeed, our starting point cannot be business as usual, which is clearly not working. The Postmaster General has a tough job – one of the toughest. The fact is the Post Office is in trouble, and Congress is in numerous ways acting as an impediment to meaningful reform. Right now, there is not one, but 536 Postmaster Generals.

The goal of our reform ought to ensure that there is one Postmaster General, and that we give the Postal Service the flexibility it needs to run its business successfully. So I congratulate Postmaster General Donahoe for his leadership. I know a lot of things you have done are controversial, but leadership is about leading and I congratulate you for having led.

I look forward to hearing from our expert panels of witnesses today about the breadth of solutions available, and I look forward to working with Senator Carper and members of the Committee to pass postal reform legislation.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not extend a special welcome to Mr. Cliff Guffey who has spent his public service career in Oklahoma. I look forward to your testimony.