

OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER THOMAS R. CARPER

Business Meeting

May 6, 2015

- I'd like to thank Chairman Johnson for holding this business meeting today. There are four nominees and several important bills on the agenda before us so I'd like to thank my colleagues and all of our staffs for the hard work that went into preparing us for what I believe will be a successful mark up.
- Among the bills we'll be considering today is the Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015, which would help ensure well-organized and effectual transitions from one presidential administration to another. This piece of legislation, co-sponsored by Chairman Johnson, offers common-sense improvements to the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 and outlines the shared responsibilities between outgoing and incoming administrations.
- This bill builds on earlier legislation championed by Senator Ted Kaufman and contains ideas for strengthening the transition process that grew out of Senator Kaufman's work in recent years with the Partnership for Public Service and its "Ready to Govern" initiative. Governor Mike Leavitt, has also supported the Partnership for Public Service's work to promote robust transition planning. In honor of their great work I would ask unanimous consent to change the short title contained in section 1 of S. 1172 to the "Edward 'Ted' Kaufman and Michael Leavitt Presidential Transitions Improvements Act of 2015."
- I also want to thank Senators Portman and McCaskill for their hard work on their Federal Permitting Improvement Act.
- I am also eager for our Committee to discuss the four nominees to the Postal Board of Governors who have been waiting patiently to be confirmed since last Congress. Without

these well qualified nominees in place, the Board lacks essential leadership needed to fully function. My hope is we can act today to report out these qualified nominees.

- In the coming weeks the Committee will hold a hearing to consider a fifth nominee to the Board of Governors, David Shapira. It is especially important we move quickly on all nominations to the Board as the term of two current Board members is set to expire at the end of the year.
- Given the agenda we have before us, I will refrain from any additional remarks so we can start right into the business at hand and get to work.