

**Opening Statement of Senator Tom Carper
HSGAC Business Meeting**

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

As prepared for delivery:

We gather here today for another business meeting with a number of important bills on the agenda. My thanks to the Chairman and the rest of my colleagues—and also to our staffs—for the hard work that went into preparing for this markup.

I am proud to sponsor a bill on today's agenda that seeks to enhance agency responsibilities to address recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office and help agencies better address issues of unnecessary duplication and risk to their operations.

I am also pleased to cosponsor a bill with Chairman Johnson, the DHS Accountability Act, that includes several provisions to improve management at DHS, strengthen oversight at DHS headquarters, and improve coordination across the Department.

I've also worked with Senators Lankford, Johnson, and Booker on an important bill that represents our efforts to ensure that the local courts in the District of Columbia operate openly and efficiently.

I would also note before we begin that a major responsibility of our committee is to provide advice and consent for nominations that are referred to our Committee. There are several nominees that we have reported out of this Committee that have long been awaiting Senate action. I would urge the Senate to do its job and confirm these nominees.

Unfortunately, there are also several nominees who have been waiting far too long to even get a hearing in our Committee. I would also ask that we do our job and give these nominees a hearing so we can examine their qualifications. These are all fine individuals who have volunteered for public service.

Finally, I hate to have to bring it up again, but we are here doing another markup which does not have a bill on it to address the severe financial problems facing the Postal Service. I introduced a postal reform bill nearly a year ago. It has widespread support. I know it's not perfect, but we must move quickly on this issue and find compromise. I hope we'll gather soon to consider it and any additional ideas my colleagues have to address the severe financial problems the Postal Service is facing.

I thank my cosponsors, Senators Moran, McCaskill, Blunt, Collins, and Warner for working with me on this important issue. Once again, I call on this Committee to do its job and address the dire situation the Postal Service finds itself in.