

U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

**Nominations of Donald L. Moak and William Zollars to be Governors, U.S. Postal Service,
and Hon. Mark A. Robbins, Carl E. Ross, and Elizabeth J. Shapiro to be Associate Judges,
Superior Court of the District of Columbia**

Opening Statement of Ranking Member Maggie Hassan

June 3, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the nominees for your participation in this process and your willingness to serve the American people.

We find ourselves today in the midst of an unprecedented time in our nation's history. More than 100,000 Americans have been killed by a deadly pandemic, a number that continues to grow. Forty million Americans are out of work, and our entire country is reeling from the senseless killing of George Floyd, and the reality of unequal access to justice, health care, education, and economic advancement that many Americans face because of the color of their skin.

We have much work ahead of us. One of the issues before us today is the future of the United States Postal Service, an agency that is committed to serving all Americans, in every part of the country – from urban centers to rural roads. And during this pandemic, the Postal Service has been an especially vital lifeline to medications, foods, and other supplies for many Americans. Unfortunately, the U.S. Postal Service is in a dire financial condition – one that has been worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Postal Service estimates it will lose \$13 billion in revenue this year and may run out of funds as early as September. A collapse or reduction of postal services would negatively impact all Americans, but it would disproportionately affect those who live on rural delivery routes, people with disabilities, and seniors with mobility issues. The Postal Service is often the only carrier that will deliver mail that “last mile” to rural homes. Supporting the Postal Service so that it can continue to offer equity and universal service to all Americans is of vital importance, especially now.

The Postal Service, the District of Columbia, and our nation face big problems that our nominees, if confirmed, are going to have to grapple with -- and it will not be an easy job. But it is a job of vital importance to our nation, and I applaud our nominees for their willingness to serve the American people in these important roles. Though this time is dark, I remain optimistic that we will find ways to solve our problems, that the resilience and resourcefulness of the American people will win out, and that we will get through this together.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.