

STATEMENT OF SENATOR SCOTT BROWN, RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Nominations for Postal Regulatory Commission

July 28, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank our two nominees, Mr. Acton and Mr. Taub, Secretary McHugh, Mr. Omas, and friends and family for being here today in support of our nominees.

These nominations are being considered at a time when the Postal Service is at a crossroads. Every day that passes is another day that pushes the Postal Service closer to the brink of insolvency. Facing an \$8 billion loss at the end of this fiscal year, the Postal Service is so strapped for cash that it will either default on its retiree obligations or miss making payroll.

Surely, the Postal Service must continue to cut costs and reduce capacity to align with projected declines in mail volume. It is also up to Congress to find the right balance of reforms to both ensure universal service and secure the long-term financial health of this vital institution into the future.

No doubt, some tough choices will need to be made. There is universal agreement that the time for action is now, yet there is plenty of debate on the combination of actions necessary to take. The Postal Service impacts many important stakeholders and thoughtful consideration is required across many viewpoints. I am confident, however, that Congress can find a responsible set of proposals that may require some shared sacrifice, but will finally put the Postal Service on a sustainable fiscal path.

The Postal Regulatory Commission will have an important role as this process moves forward. Surely, any legislation will likely impact the PRC itself, but it is their unique perspective has always been important to the various policy debates affecting the Postal Service, its employees, and its customers on a daily basis.

I'm sure Mr. Acton's experience as a Commissioner will be extremely valuable as questions are raised about the proper roles and responsibilities of the PRC in the future.

Furthermore, Mr. Taub is no stranger to the challenges and debates surrounding postal reform legislation having worked extensively on prior efforts when he was here on the Hill.

I appreciated their honest and candor during our meeting last week and look forward to continuing that conversation today. No doubt it will be a demanding time to serve on the PRC considering the challenges facing the Postal Service in the near and long term. We appreciate their willingness to serve in these important positions and look forward to their testimony.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.