

Statement of Nanci E. Langley
Nomination Hearing to be a Commissioner
Postal Regulatory Commission
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs

October 2, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Coburn, distinguished members of the Committee; I appreciate having the opportunity to appear before you today, and I thank you for considering my re-nomination to the Postal Regulatory Commission

I am honored to be nominated by President Obama to a second term as a Commissioner, and I thank him for the trust he has placed in me.

This past February, I marked my 30th year of federal service. For 24 of those years, I had the privilege of serving as a senior legislative and policy advisor to two United States Senators from Hawaii. I was honored to advise Senator Dan Akaka on issues that came before this very Committee for over 15 years, 9 of which was as his deputy staff director on the federal workforce and government management subcommittee. As you know, he was active in the development and passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, especially in the area of financial transparency and accountability. Although Senator Akaka has retired to Hawaii and his beloved family, I greatly appreciate his support for my initial nomination as well as my re-nomination. I want to thank him for that unwavering support.

Having grown up in Hawaii, I understand the unique challenges faced by individuals who reside or do business in rural, remote or noncontiguous areas of the United States. Their dependence on the US Mail many times is greater than those who reside in urban or suburban areas. But just as I appreciate those challenges, I also appreciate the challenges facing the Postal Service as it faces declining mail volumes and electronic diversion of mail. I am pleased Congress and this Committee are working to address the issues discussed in the past two weeks of postal hearings.

A vital U.S. postal system is a cornerstone of our national economy, which depends on a healthy postal service to spur economic growth - foster America's entrepreneurial spirit and link family and friends across thousands of miles. Even though we communicate in ways unimagined by our Founding Fathers, hard copy mail, including packages, continue to bind the nation together through universal and affordable service.

After working on the PAEA, and now implementing its provisions, I have a deeper appreciation of the importance of an independent regulator. The need for clear, well-reasoned and unbiased reviews of Postal Service initiatives and its financial condition are especially important to ensure a balance between the flexibilities given to the Postal Service with the accountability and transparency provided by the Commission as envisioned by the PAEA. As a Commissioner, I strive to provide fair, reasoned and expeditious review of all matters that come before me, and I will continue to work toward streamlining our review processes while ensuring due process.

Thank you Chairman Carper, Dr. Coburn and members of the Committee. I also wish to thank your staff for assisting me through the nomination process, especially John Kilvington, Katie Bailey, Kata Sybenga, Joe Moeller and Deirdre Armstrong. And, I thank our Commission staff for their professionalism, expert advice and commitment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement, and I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have of me.