

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Hearing
United State Postal Service Board of Governors Nomination
D. Michael Bennett Opening Statement

Good Morning Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Coburn and Committee members.

It is my pleasure to be here before you this afternoon. I want to thank President Barack Obama for his decision to nominate me to become a member of the USPS Board of Governors. I appreciate his confidence and recognition that I will competently and diligently fulfill the requirements of this critical role to our Postal Service and ultimately to the American people. I'm committed to exercising every aspect of my legal, business and technology experience to help the Postal Service continue to evolve as the needs of America for its goods and services evolve.

I am honored to have an opportunity to serve the American people at one of their most important institutions. The Postal Service is important because it is part of the bedrock of our nation. It is a critical component of the engine of our economy, as well as a material force in our personal lives. For businesses in remote areas, the Postal Service is sometimes the sole option, delivering essential products that maintain critical manufacturing machinery or providing delivery to their customers. It can also have a very personal impact. When people are unable to travel to a pharmacy, the Postal Service is often their lifeline to essential medications—a lifeline that can come directly to their doorstep. It is the only institution in this country that can touch every single American, every day. What an incredible national asset!

I doubt that any other country on the planet has an entity that can do what our USPS can do. Unfortunately we sometimes take this 200-plus year-old national treasure for granted. But, it is a treasure, and I want to be a part of creating even more value in the Postal Service for the American people.

Yes, I'm honored to be nominated, but I'm also excited about what is possible for the Postal Service. I'm eager to explore all the various ways it can serve the American people through its vast network of facilities, distribution networks, and—most importantly—its people. As I think about how companies have transformed themselves over the past decade to drive efficiency in and cost out, I get excited considering the possibilities for transformation we have for the Postal Service. Transformation is driven by innovation. I look forward to working with the Congress, this Committee, the other Board members and the Postal Service management on innovative ideas to drive efficiency and value in and cost out. I have lead several transformational IT programs and look forward to sharing those experiences, if confirmed.

Finally, we must look for ways to leverage the knowledge and skill of the Postal Service's incredible workforce. People are our biggest and most valuable asset. I know this personally, because when I was growing up, my Stepfather was a Postal mail carrier in Charlotte NC. There wasn't anything he didn't know about locations around Charlotte. This is the real asset that we can leverage so that the Postal Service can continue to evolve to provide what the ever-changing American people need and want. I can't wait to get started!

I look forward to your questions.