

STATEMENT OF ANN C. FISHER

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Sinema, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my qualifications to be a commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission. I would also like to thank President Trump for nominating me. I am deeply honored.

I am grateful to have with me today my husband David Fisher, my two daughters Dagny and Regan Fisher, and my nephew August Veerman of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. While my parents, Paul and Cathryn Rehfuss, are not able to be here today, I know they will be proudly watching from their home in Yankton, South Dakota. Both were long-time public servants for the State of South Dakota, and have instilled in me the value of a career dedicated to public service.

This past May I marked my 26th year of Federal service – with all but two of those years devoted to postal issues.

In the Senate, I benefitted from working for three different senators representing very different states: South Dakota, Mississippi and Maine. Naturally, part of my time was spent assisting the members' constituents with a myriad of postal issues. I noticed that post office closures consistently generated the most passion. I learned how much people across America care about their local post office, especially in highly rural areas.

As a government relations manager at Postal Service headquarters here in Washington, I developed an appreciation for the vast scope of the postal network and the complexity involved in moving a single piece of mail from the post office or a blue box to someone's mailbox across town or across the country. I also spent a good deal of time traveling to midwestern states, meeting with local postal officials and congressional staff – helping to ensure transparency of postal operations and resolve community concerns.

Starting at the Postal Regulatory Commission in 2007, I worked as chief of staff to former Chairman Dan Blair, then became the director of public affairs and government relations, where I have worked the past 11 years. Our mission is to ensure the transparency and accountability of the Postal Service. The Commission prides itself on providing timely and rigorous analyses, while optimizing stakeholder engagement. With a major review of the system for setting Market Dominant rates well underway, the qualifications, fairness and impartiality of the commissioners is paramount.

My background at the Commission provides me a wide variety of experiences necessary to meaningfully contribute as a commissioner and maintain this high level of transparency and accountability.

To date, the most challenging yet rewarding part of my career was my time spent as deputy staff director to the former Chairman of this Committee, Susan Collins, as she, together with then-Ranking Member Carper, crafted a Senate companion to the House of Representatives

postal reform bill. Updating postal laws that had been in place since 1970 was incredibly difficult, for the U.S. Postal Service is the centerpiece of a \$1.4 trillion mailing industry that employs more than 7.5 million people. After years of effort and a multitude of obstacles, The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act was signed into law in 2006.

Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, the Great Recession coupled with accelerated electronic diversion dramatically reduced mail volume.

Today, the Postal Service has lost money 12 years in a row and has an outstanding debt of \$11 billion.

I took great interest in the December 2018 report issued by Treasury Secretary Mnuchin's Task Force on the United States Postal System. While opinions of the recommendations made within the report may be varied, I think most can agree with the Task Force goal of identifying a path for the U.S. Postal Service to operate a sustainable business model, provide necessary mail services to citizens and businesses, and compete fairly in commercial markets.

Difficult decisions lie ahead for Congress and the Commission with respect to potential postal reform. I believe my experience working within the U.S. Senate, at the U.S. Postal Service and at the Postal Regulatory Commission have given me a clear understanding of the challenges faced by today's Postal Service, as well as viable options for its future.

Mr. Chairman, if confirmed, I will dedicate myself to working with Congress, the Administration and the Postal Service to ensure that users of the postal system have a vibrant and efficient mail system for many years to come. Thank you.