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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Ruth Y. Goldway
Chairwoman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Chairwoman Goldway,

The Postal Regulatory Commission plays a pivotal role in overseeing U.S. Postal Service operations and ensuring that customers receive the level of service guaranteed to them under the law. However, the challenges facing the Postal Service – and, by extension, the Commission – have never been greater. I hope that you can assist us in understanding how we might work together to save costs at the Postal Service in a way that might benefit both rate payers and taxpayers.

The Postal Service lost nearly \$16 billion and recently reached its \$15 billion borrowing limit with Treasury. Difficult financial times such as these demand both innovative solutions and leadership by example.

In correspondence last year, the amount of time and resources at the Commission devoted to travel was called into question, particularly as it appeared to struggle at times to fulfill its higher-priority statutory responsibilities in a timely manner. You were urged to limit such trips to what was only truly necessary, and to better document the ways in which the Commission explored other options – such as phone, videoconference, fax and email – to conduct business. We appreciate the changes you recently made to the Commission's travel policy intended to control travel spending and encourage Commission staff to utilize more cost-effective alternatives to travel.

We write to ask that you provide the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs a detailed update on the Commission's travel expenses and the implementation of your travel policy changes. As a follow-up to information you provided last year, please provide a list of all trips made in calendar years 2012 and 2013, as well as projected travel for the remainder of the current calendar year. Please include the actual, or for future travel, estimated cost of each trip; the list of Commission staff and/or commissioners included in such travel; an itinerary for each trip; documentation that presents any consideration by the Commission as to other options for conducting the same business, if available; and a description of how such trip lead to improvements of the Commission's work, the United States Postal Service, or fulfilled a statutory requirement.

Finally, please also supply the committee a list of any conferences for which the Commission funded sponsorship, and the amount of such sponsorship costs, in the five most recent fiscal years.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please contact John Kilvington of Chairman Carper's staff at (202) 224-2627 or Katie Bailey of Ranking Member Coburn's staff at (202) 224-7412 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee



Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
Ranking Member
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee