

**November 15, 2016**

**Opening Statement of Senator James Lankford  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Hearing:  
Nominations of Mr. Mark Acton and Mr. Robert Taub,  
to be Commissioners of the Postal Regulatory Commission**

Good afternoon. Today we will consider the nominations of Mr. Robert Taub and Mr. Mark Acton for Commissioners to the Postal Regulatory Commission. The Postal Regulatory Commission exercises statutory and comprehensive oversight of the U.S. Postal Service. Among its responsibilities are the mandates to prevent anticompetitive practices, to promote accountability, to adjudicate complaints, set postal rates, and help oversee delivery service standards. It is important that each commissioner reflects the highest standard of public service.

Robert Taub is a native of Gloversville, New York. He received his bachelor's degree and M.A. in political science from American University, where he graduated with honors. Mr. Taub has a distinguished career as a public servant, including work at the Government Accountability Office, as Chief of Staff to former-Representative John McHugh, and as an assistant to the Secretary of the Army. He is currently serving as Acting Chairman of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Mark Acton is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville and M.B.A. from the University of Maryland. Mr. Acton served the Republican National Committee for more than two decades in a variety of positions, including as Staff Director for the Counsel's Office and Government Relations Officer. Prior to his confirmation as a Commissioner of the PRC, Mr. Acton was the Special Assistant to the Chairman.

Committee staff had the opportunity to interview Mr. Taub and Mr. Acton regarding their work so far at the PRC. They have thoughtfully and competently answered each question to our satisfaction. Mr. Taub and Mr. Acton, to date, the Committee has found you to be qualified for the position you have been nominated. I look forward to speaking with you more today on how you would apply your experience for another term.