

Chairman Peters Opening Statement As Prepared for Delivery
Full Committee Hearing: Nominations of Kiran A. Ahuja to be Director, Office of
Personnel Management, and Anton A. Hajjar, Amber F. McReynolds, and Ronald
Stroman to be Governors, U.S. Postal Service
April 22, 2021

The Committee will come to order.

Today, we are considering the nominations of Kiran Ahuja to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton Hajjar, Amber McReynolds, and Ron Stroman, to be members of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors.

Welcome to you all, and thank you for joining us here today. Congratulations on your nominations, and thank you for your willingness to serve in these roles that help ensure our government is working efficiently and effectively for the American people.

Ms. Ahuja, if confirmed as Director of the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, you will not only lead an agency of several thousand employees, but also serve as the chief human resources officer to millions of hardworking, and dedicated, public servants across the federal government.

Over the last few years, OPM and our federal workforce have faced many challenges.

This is an incredibly important position and I believe your extensive public service experience, including as Chief of Staff at OPM, have prepared you well to lead this agency at what is, undoubtedly, a pivotal time for employees at OPM and throughout the federal government.

As you and I have discussed, our nation's civil service requires an experienced, independent leader who can rebuild confidence in OPM, and provide a hopeful and innovative vision for the future of the federal workforce.

Our dedicated public servants are on the frontline, responding to the ongoing pandemic, protecting our national security, and delivering vital services to the American people every day. I look forward to hearing more about how you plan to lead this critical agency.

Mr. Hajjar, Mr. Stroman, and Ms. McReynolds, if confirmed, you will help lead the U.S. Postal Service, an essential public service for nearly 250 years, that countless Americans rely on for affordable and reliable delivery of medications, financial documents, for running their small business, and more.

As you all know, the Postal Service and its dedicated workers continue facing unique challenges that have been compounded by the ongoing pandemic. And, last year we saw service standards fall dramatically due to changes that were made without consulting Congress or even studying their possible effects.

Though the current situation has improved, the Postal Service continues to face enormous challenges in providing timely delivery and planning for its future.

Given these challenges, it is essential that nominees to the Board of Governors are qualified leaders who will focus on service, and work with Congress to ensure our postal workforce has the right support to deliver for the American people each and every day.

Mr. Hajjar, as a legal expert who has worked extensively on labor-management relations, you have a strong knowledge of how to forge compromises, and understand the unique challenges faced by the Postal Service's large and diverse workforce.

Ms. McReynolds, as the chief executive of a nonprofit and former senior local government official, you are a proven leader who has experience working with a variety of stakeholder groups. From our conversations, it is clear you are knowledgeable on how the Postal Service works with states, clients and constituents to deliver mail across the nation.

Mr. Stroman, you are a lifelong public servant, and as former Deputy Postmaster General, you have a deep operational knowledge of the Postal Service. You also have an extensive record of working across the aisle as its former head of government relations.

All of you have diverse and extensive leadership, public service, and legal experience that have prepared you to take on this new role, bring fresh perspectives, and address the challenges the Postal Service faces.

I look forward to hearing more from each of you about your vision for improving the Postal Service, increasing accountability, and working to ensure every American, including veterans, small business owners, rural residents, underserved communities, and seniors, can count on the Postal Service.