

Postal Regulatory Commission

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Press Release

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PRC Chairman Outlines Positive Vision to Congress for Future of U.S. Mail System Promotes Growth and Funding Remedies to Avoid Major Service Cuts

Washington, DC – Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman Ruth Y. Goldway today clarified for the public that there is no decision yet to reduce mail service to five-day delivery. The Commission and the Congress are just beginning to consider the change.

"I believe that America's mail system can be reinvented," said Goldway in testimony, available [here](#), before a joint hearing of the House Committee and Subcommittee that oversee the Postal Service. In contrast to dire forecasts by the Postal Service and the GAO, she offered a positive vision of growth ideas, adjustments in postal retiree benefit outlays and faith in the improving economy that would stabilize postal service and maintain high levels of customer service.

Goldway urged the Postal Service to expand government partnerships, improve retail activities, make better use of the postal workforce and enhance its mailing products, including the provision of industry standard tracking and tracing services. Heading a list of 11 specific proposals, Goldway called for the Postal Service to develop mail products based on value to the customer and not just volume. "This is the fundamental tenet needed to fix the Postal Service's broken business model," she said.

"If the last few years have taught us anything, they have shown how unpredictable the future can be. In my 12 years on the Commission, I can recall times when the Postal Service predicted billion dollar losses and ended the year with billion dollar gains," Goldway said.

In response to mounting Postal Service financial challenges, Goldway said the Commission will carefully analyze the potential savings and possible losses from five-day delivery in a formal docket. She recommended that Congress work first to adjust currently mandated payments for future postal retiree health benefit payments and pointed to Commission studies and reviews now underway indicating Postal Service liability for future retiree benefits costs could be adjusted. Goldway advised that major service cuts should not be adopted until these issues have been resolved by Congress and the Commission has issued its Advisory Opinion on the Postal Service proposal to eliminate Saturday mail delivery.

"The premise that the Postal Service needs to be cut in size and scope to solve a projected deficit fails to answer fundamental questions. What does the Constitution and the law require? What is best for the Nation? How can the Postal Service maintain and improve its universal service obligation. Both GAO and the Postal Service offer recommendations without this context," Goldway said. "I believe it is possible to create a positive plan that envisions a future with a vibrant communications network, reengineered and reenergized to provide universal service for a new century of customers."

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The Postal Regulatory Commission is an independent federal agency that provides regulatory oversight over the U.S. Postal Service to ensure the transparency and accountability of the Postal Service and foster a vital and efficient universal mail system. The Commission is comprised of five Presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Commissioners, each serving terms of six years. The Chairman is designated by the President. In addition to Chairman Goldway, the other Commissioners are Vice Chairman Tony Hammond, Dan Blair, Nanci Langley, and Mark Acton.