

Press Release

PRC Chairman Stresses Transparency and Measuring Performance of Service Standards at Senate Postal Hearing

August 2, 2007

Washington, DC – Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) Chairman Dan G. Blair underscored the need for service standards and performance measures that are transparent and accountable during his appearance today before the Senate Postal Subcommittee. Blair was invited to testify on the steps the PRC is taking to implement Modern Service Standards as required by Title III of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

The Act requires the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to consult with the PRC on development of regulations establishing service standards that are due by December 2007, as well as reporting to Congress on their implementation, which is due by June 2008.

“In this reformed environment, the Congress required the Postal Service to report on how well it is performing against the standards, once they are adopted,” Blair told Senators Tom Carper and Tom Coburn, chairman and ranking member of the Senate Postal Subcommittee.

“Ensuring transparency and maintenance of performance levels is more critical than ever, since future postal rate increases are capped at inflation. Congress, after considerable deliberation, specifically chose the CPI as the index for the rate cap. It did so with full knowledge that USPS revenues have stayed within inflation or just below the CPI over the past 37 years,” Blair noted.

“The Commission’s oversight efforts will help ensure against any service degradation or cost-shifting for mailers. Mailers have a right to know the level of service they are receiving. What gets measured is what gets reported,” Blair offered in response to questions posed by Subcommittee members.

Chairman Blair’s testimony may be viewed at www.prc.gov.
