

### CONCURRING OPINION OF CHAIRMAN GOLDWAY

I concur in the result of my colleagues' decision, but write separately in this case to express my additional views.

The protracted negotiations that have given rise to this highly unusual Postal Service request are troubling. As discussed in this Order, this is the Postal Service's fourth request for an extension of the agreement originally scheduled to expire on July 2, 2012. With each prior extension request, the Postal Service represented to the Commission that a new replacement agreement would be signed shortly. It appears that the Postal Service has previously overestimated the success of prior negotiations. I am hopeful that as the Postal Service becomes more experienced with contract renewal negotiations, it will better anticipate its contract partners' negotiation techniques. As a result, the Commission should see less of these types of motions.

If additional such extension requests do come before the Commission, the Postal Service should provide the Commission with enough information for making a determination on the relevance of contract negotiation difficulties before expecting approval of such agreements.

Ruth Y. Goldway