

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-000

RECEIVED
JAN 22 1 25 PM '02
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2001 : Docket No. R2001-1

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PRESORT MAILERS JOINT COMMENTS ON PROCEDURAL MECHANISMS
AND SCHEDULES

(January 22, 2002)

American Bankers Association and National Association of Presort Mailers hereby submit their joint comments on procedural mechanisms and schedules for this case.

ABA & NAPM are both signatories to the settlement with the Postal Service, which settlement has been joined by the overwhelming percentage of parties. Of course we recognize that the procedures adopted by the Commission must provide due process for those few parties who may not support the settlement. At the same time we urge the Commission to adopt procedures which do not preclude implementation of the decision by the June 30, 2002 implementation date which is an important element of the settlement.

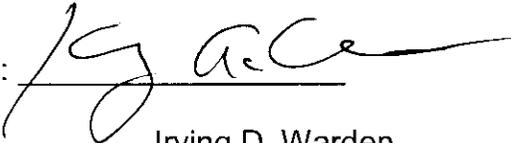
ABA & NAPM understand that the Postal service is filing today a proposed procedural schedule. We have reviewed the schedule proposed by the Postal Service and we support its adoption. We believe that such schedule provides the required due process to those few parties who may oppose or not support the

settlement, while also allowing time for the decision in this case to be implemented within the time frame anticipated by the settlement.

Lastly we note that only one party, the APWU, filed a notice of intent to oppose the settlement. In the event that APWU elects not to file testimony, the procedural schedule proposed by the Postal Service should be expedited further to reflect the fact that no testimony opposing the settlement will be filed.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRESORT
MAILERS

By: 

Henry A. Hart, Esq.
Reed Smith LLP
1301 K Street N.W.
Suite 1100 - East Tower
Washington, DC 20005
Ph: 202-414-9225
Fax: 202-414-9299

Irving D. Warden
Assoc. General Counsel
American Bankers Association
1120 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Ph: 202-663-5035
Fax: 202-828-4548

Counsel for
National Association
of Presort Mailers

Counsel for
American Bankers Association

Date: January 22, 2002

Washington, D.C.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the instant document on all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with Section 12 of the Rules of Practice.


Henry A. Hart

January 22, 2002