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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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February 8, 2012

The Honorable Ruth Y. Goldway
Chairman
U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20268

Dear Ms. Goldway,

As you know, the U. S. Postal Service is facing a dire fiscal crisis that threatens its very survival. As the agency charged with conducting critical oversight of this troubled institution and one that receives all of its funding through postal revenue, the Postal Regulatory Commission knows the circumstances facing the Postal Service's all too well.

Due in part to the significant financial challenges facing the Postal Service, the Commission is facing a larger and heavier workload. You and I have spoken in the past about my concerns with the Commission's handling of this workload and the timeliness and quality of its work. Since then, I've been appreciative of the steps you, your fellow commissioners, and your staff have taken to improve Commission operations and to keep my staff and me informed of your work and the Commission's progress. I was concerned, however, when it was brought to my attention recently through media reports that, since becoming Commission Chairman, you have significantly increased your official travel, including international travel, compared to your predecessors. Given the Postal Service's ongoing financial challenges and the amount of work the Commission has on its plate, a significant increase in official travel by you – or any member of the Commission – raises questions.

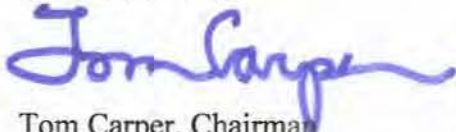
This is a time when the leadership of the Congress, the Postal Service, and the Postal Regulatory Commission needs to focus like a laser on the Postal Service's financial problems and potential solutions to those problems. If we are going to ask postal employees and customers to make sacrifices to save the Postal Service, then the leadership at the Postal Service and the Commission – and even Members of Congress – have a responsibility to set a good example when it comes to frugality and basic financial management.

Therefore, I request that you provide the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, which I am privileged to chair, with a detailed itinerary and justification for each official trip you have made since becoming Commission Chairman, as well as the travel itinerary and justification of your past two predecessors. In addition, I ask that you detail for me the Commission's official travel policy for its employees, including commissioners, as well as any procedures the Commission has in place to prevent travel that is wasteful or not related to the furtherance of the Commission's important mission or the achievement of its strategic goals.

I ask that you provide this information by February 20, 2012. Should you have any questions, please ask your staff to contact John Kilvington at (202) 224-7061.

Thank you very much for your ongoing attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Carper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "C".

Tom Carper, Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services,
and International Security