



News from Washington

Taub and Day await Senate action on PRC nominations

On Sept. 7, President Biden announced his intent to renominate Robert Taub to the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC). The following week, on Sept. 11, the president announced his intent to nominate Thomas Day to serve as a commissioner.

The PRC currently has five commissioners, who are nominated by the president for six-year terms and confirmed by the Senate. Taub is a two-time appointee to the commission following unanimous confirmations by the Senate in 2011 and 2016. His current term expired on Oct. 22, 2022, and he is serving in a hold-over year until Oct. 22, 2023. Mark Acton, the current vice chairman of the commission who has served on the PRC since 2006, also is serving in a hold-over year that

expires on Oct. 22. If confirmed, Day would replace Acton on the PRC.

The PRC is an independent agency that exercises regulatory oversight over the Postal Service. Its responsibilities include preventing anti-competitive practices, promoting accountability, adjudicating complaints, setting postal rates and helping oversee delivery service standards. PRC nominees must be advanced by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) and then approved by the full Senate.

On Sept. 7, HSGAC held a hearing to consider Taub's renomination. At the hearing, HSGAC Chairman Gary Peters (D-MI) thanked Taub for his 40 years of public service and emphasized the importance of the PRC's role in ensuring

transparency and accountability in USPS for the benefit of all Americans. Sen. Peters remarked that "robust oversight is especially important as the Postal Service continues to implement the Postal Service Reform Act passed last year and makes other plans that could impact Americans."

In his testimony, Taub cited this role as the "key mission of why the Postal Regulatory Commission exists and was created," and elaborated on

how he intends to support the PRC's efforts in meeting the challenges facing today's Postal Service. He further pledged to work with all postal stakeholders in his role as commissioner.

Referencing the PRC's inquiry into the Postal Service's Delivering for America plan and its impact on costs, revenue, employees and customers, Taub expressed his position that "this is not a time for the Commission to think big thoughts or step back. We've got to be using our authorities—recognizing we're the regulator, not the operator—to ensure the American public has transparency and accountability."

In response to Sen. James Lankford's (R-OK) questions about the financial challenges the Postal Service is navigating and how the increase in package handling could have a positive effect on revenue, Taub detailed how the Delivering for America plan seeks to accommodate package handling on a larger scale, and the initial costs associated with that transformation.

At the hearing, Republican and Democratic members of the committee shared concerns affecting their constituents, such as suspended and closed post offices, mail delivery issues, affordability and the responsiveness of the Postal Service to the issues to meet the demands of public interest. Taub recognized service oversight of USPS as one of the most critical tasks and responsibilities of the PRC and referenced steps the agency has taken to ensure that the Postal Service complies with recommendations for corrective actions to meet service standards, including aspects of last year's Postal Service Reform Act.

Taub's testimony made clear that he recognizes the responsibilities of the PRC in stabilizing mail delivery

NALC joined union members, civil rights leaders and other activists in Washington, DC, for the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. On Aug. 26, marchers gathered for a continuation of the fight for racial and economic justice and our democracy.



Director of Retired Members Dan Toth (center) and other NALC officers and letter carrier staff participates in a rally on Sept. 13, calling for Congress to pass the Social Security Fairness Act.



and modernizing the Postal Service to provide affordable, world-class service. “The fact is, for all the challenges the Postal Service faces, it still plays a vital role in our economy, our society and how Americans across this land communicate,” he said in his opening remarks.

The renomination of Taub to the PRC will help ensure that the Delivering for America plan is executed efficiently and in a way that accomplishes its intended goals. To learn more about letter carriers’ involvement with the Delivering for America plan, see the August issue of *The Postal Record*.

On Sept. 12, the committee voted 12-0 to advance Taub’s nomination. He now awaits consideration in the full Senate.

At press time, HSGAC had not yet considered Day’s nomination.

Day retired from the Postal Service in 2019 after serving in multiple senior roles, including vice president of engineering, senior vice president of government affairs, senior vice president of Intelligent Mail and chief sustainability officer. Following his retirement from the Postal Service, Day worked at the International Post Corporation in Brussels. He is an Army veteran and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

NALC will keep letter carriers updated as Taub and Day move through the nomination process.

NALC participates in rally to repeal WEP and GPO

On Sept. 13, NALC participated in a rally on Capitol grounds in Washington, DC, to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The event, organized by the National WEP/GPO Repeal

Task Force, focused on raising awareness and gaining support in Congress for the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82/S. 597), legislation that would repeal the WEP and GPO.

Millions of federal employees, including letter carriers, are affected by the WEP and GPO, which are parts of Social Security law that unfairly reduce or sometimes eliminate the Social Security benefits of federal annuitants.

NALC Director of Retired Members Dan Toth spoke at the rally alongside other labor leaders, including American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, American Postal Workers Union Legislative and Political Director Judy Beard, International Association of Fire Fighters President Ed Kelly and American Federation of Government Employees National President Everett Kelly.

Local NALC members, NALC Headquarters staff, and people affected by

the WEP and GPO from various industries attended the event.

In the 118th Congress, H.R. 82 once again has broad bipartisan support, with 292 co-sponsors in the House. Under House rules, when a bill reaches 290 co-sponsors it can go to the House floor for a vote after 30 days if the committee of jurisdiction does not act. The House Committee on Ways and Means, led by Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO), is the committee of jurisdiction for the bill. Even though the bill has exceeded 290 co-sponsors, it is unlikely that House leaders will bypass the committee process and call for a floor vote.

NALC is committed to moving this bill forward and increasing support to finally repeal the WEP and GPO. Please visit nalc.org/action to check whether your representative is a co-sponsor of the bill and, if not, ask them to support H.R. 82. **PR**

LCPF is a non-partisan political action committee established for the purpose of electing qualified candidates who support letter carriers and a strong and innovative U.S. Postal Service. Since union dues can't be used to support candidates for political office, NALC relies 100 percent on member contributions to the LCPF, which in turn helps us support those on Capitol Hill who defend us.

Join the LCPF at nalc.org/pac

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