

**STATEMENT OF VINCENT PALLADINO
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS
ON THE REPORT OF THE
PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

The President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service has performed a valuable public service in validating the serious challenges that confront the nation's mail system and the future of mail. The Commission's report correctly affirms the preservation of the fundamental character of the Postal Service as a governmental institution and underscores the need to modernize the Postal Service's capacity to remain financially and technologically competitive.

Many of the Commission's recommendations are good and deserve Congressional respect. The Commission's proposals to close low-volume post offices, to give more flexibility to the Postal Service in setting rates, and to expand pay-for-performance systems are ones that will improve efficiency and quality of postal service.

But there are several Commission proposals that should be left on the doorstep:

- The proposal to establish a Postal Regulatory Board with expansive power over postal operations, including even pay comparability of postal workers, is seriously flawed.
- The proposal to create a base closure-like commission to recommend the closure of mail processing plants, without also recommending the closure of small post offices, is half-baked. Indeed, if the mandate of the Postal Service is to operate like a business, the Postmaster General alone should have the authority to decide how the Service network of plants and post offices should be aligned and which facilities should be closed or consolidated.

The challenges facing the postal system are too great for Congress to wait until the Postal Service is knee-deep in crisis. The nation's postal laws are in urgent need of updating. I look forward to working with the Postmaster General and the Congress to build upon the worthy ideas contained in the Presidential commission's report.
