

AMERICAN BUSINESS MEDIA

The Association of Business Media Companies

American Business Media's Initiative for a Presidential Commission Succeeds

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The Postal Service and the Treasury Department this morning will announce the formation of a Presidential Commission, which will study the Postal Service and make recommendations to improve its effectiveness and shape its role in the 21st century. Co-chaired by Harry Pearce, chairman of Hughes Electronics, and James Johnson, vice chairman of financial services company Perseus, the nine-member Commission is directed to submit its report by July 31, 2003. Dennis Shea, a former aide to Senator Robert Dole, will serve as Executive Director.

For more than six years, American Business Media has contended that only a Presidential Commission would have sufficient stature and freedom from political pressures to tackle the most difficult—and important—issues facing the Postal Service. American Business Media opposed various legislative approaches that fell far short of the mark. In the past year, most large mailers and associations became convinced that this was the correct approach. As a result, calls for a Presidential Commission have become nearly unanimous.

“We are very excited that this commission will at last become a reality,” said Gordon Hughes, President and CEO, American Business Media. “We now look forward to working with a united mailing community, including the Postal Service, on the identification and implementation of meaningful reforms.”

The Commission is charged with studying and recommending changes to the way that the Postal Service deals with issues such as cost and rate flexibility, its universal service obligation and the postal monopoly over letters. While the Postal Service will likely be able to make some of the recommended changes itself or with the approval of the Postal Rate Commission, others will no doubt require congressional action.