



March 8, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Ten-Year Rate System Review, Docket No. RM 2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of local public broadcasting station WETA and the many viewers, listeners and members who count on us as an integral part of their daily lives. As a non-profit organization, WETA is heavily reliant on the U.S. Postal Service to raise funds and communicate with our donors, viewers and listeners.

Stable postage rates that remain at or below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are vital to our ability to continue our mission: a robust direct mail program is truly at the heart of helping us to achieve our mission and goals. The current CPI cap system provides effective external motivation for the USPS to control costs and scale itself to today's mail volume. We face daily economic threats and challenges to continue our mission, increasing postal rates that exceed the cost of inflation would do direct damage to our bottom line and immediately compromise our ability to raise funds.

Be it the beautiful music and opera on Classical WETA or beloved programs on WETA TV such as the *PBS NewsHour*, *Nature*, *NOVA*, *Frontline*, wonderful documentaries by Ken Burns or the lineup of commercial-free educational children's programs, member support helps WETA to produce and broadcast programs that educate, inspire, and entertain. A significant portion of those funds is raised through the U.S. Mail system, and our ability to raise those funds would be compromised through higher postal rates.

Please do not change the current postal rate system. It balances the objectives and factors required by law in a way that no replacement system could.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheryl Lahti".

Sheryl Lahti  
Executive Director  
Development Operations