

**EARLENE ROBERTS
FORMER NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE
AND REPUBLICAN MINORITY WHIP
P. O. BOX 39
LOVINGTON, NEW MEXICO 88260**

March 14, 2006

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman, Senator Committee on Homeland Security
461 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Postal Governor Nominee, Mickey Barnett

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I am writing to you in opposition to the confirmation of Mickey Barnett of New Mexico to serve on the U. S. Postal Service Board of Governors.

As the former Minority Whip of the New Mexico House of Representatives, I am well acquainted with Mr. Barnett's attributes and personal characteristics. I can tell you in no uncertain terms that Mr. Barnett does not hold the qualifications or the person qualities that a Postal Governor should possess.

Mr. Barnett is a paid special interest lobbyist. In his work for his private clients in New Mexico, he has practiced the politics of personal destruction and intimidation. This has included (but has not been limited to) threatening state legislators with primary opponents when they do not vote for his legislation even if it requires voting against their constituents or the Republican Party platform.

Mr. Barnett has had his clients fund the primary opponents of state legislators who have not voted his way. He has run these campaigns out of his law

office. His political protégés has served as consultants to these opposition campaigns. They have even raised money for their own campaigns and then contributed those funds to the opponents of these legislators that Mr. Barnett has targeted for political extinction.

To put this in Washington terms, Mr. Barnett has engaged in “Jack Abramoff” style politics here in New Mexico. But the key difference between Mr. Barnett and Mr. Abramoff is that Mr. Barnett recruits your next opponent, helps fund them, provides the political expertise necessary to run their campaign and last but not least, gets his legislator protégés to attack you for voting your district and not Mr. Barnett’s way.

I am requesting the opportunity to testify against Mr. Barnett’s confirmation and will be happy to provide detail of Mr. Barnett’s questionable political activities which I believe make him unfit and unqualified for public service.

Sincerely,

Earlene Roberts
Former Minority Whip
New Mexico House of Representatives