



Oregon State Association National Association of Letter Carriers

4326 SE 73rd Avenue • Portland Oregon 97206 • 503-407-4544

Statement of Support for House Joint Memorial 15

Since the passage of PAEA in 2006 the United States Postal Service has gone through some tough times. PAEA forced the Postal Service to make payments that pre-fund future retiree health benefits, this combined with the Recession has led to huge losses. Since its inaction, pre-funding has accounted for 85% of total USPS losses.

It is time to stop this senseless policy, which is bleeding the USPS of resources it needs to be successful. The Postmaster General's recent attempt to eliminate 6-day delivery only reinforces the fact that comprehensive postal reform needs to be passed by Congress. Congress has the ability to do just that by voting on HR 630 and S.316, "The Postal Service Protection Act of 2013".

The Postal Service Protection Act would help return the USPS to financial stability while protecting the services provided to Americans throughout the country six days a week. The bill would eliminate the pre-funding requirement and allow new streams of revenue to be pursued. Of particular importance to postal customers and to the future of the USPS itself, the bill mandates 6-day delivery, so it would no longer be subject to annual congressional approval through the appropriations process.

As well as fixing key components of PAEA, the Postal Service Protection Act goes a step further by allowing the USPS to recover billions of dollars worth in pension surpluses. Finally the bill prevents the closure of rural post offices, which would adversely affect rural communities and those with high proportions of senior citizens.

Over the last 7 years the USPS has, through attrition, downsized its workforce by nearly 160,000 positions. Most of those positions, including about 40,000 letter carrier positions, were eliminated through partnerships with postal unions. The choices were tough, but the NALC, other postal unions, and USPS did what they had to do to allow the United States Postal Service to survive. Current and former USPS employees have done their part to make the Postal Service sustainable.

Now it is Congress' turn to start addressing and fixing the underlying problems of the USPS. To that end, it is with wholehearted support the Oregon State Association of Letter Carriers, wishes to see the passing of House Joint Memorial 15. It is an important step in urging Congress to achieve comprehensive postal reform, and we feel the best way to do that is for Congress to pass H.R. 630/S.316.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Card
President
Oregon State Association of Letter Carriers
4326 SE 73rd Ave
Portland, OR 97206
503-407-4544