



A Clear and Present Danger



As we enter another round of collective bargaining, we find that external pressures may far outweigh our historical and recurring challenges with postal management. This is no small matter Sisters and Brothers and easily rises to the level of a *clear and present danger* to the rights and benefits we have fought for over decades of struggle. This is a real and credible threat to the family sustaining jobs we and future employees deserve. To be sure, this assault is not new, for as long as we can remember elements on Capitol Hill and in the private sector would like nothing more than to see the demise of the National Treasure that is the United States Postal Service. However, what makes this current offensive different is the unabashed disdain for all working people spewing from the White House. Some may scoff as we hear the bloviations of the crooked real estate scoundrel now occupying 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., as he promises everything from tax reform for working class folks to a reanimation of the coal industry and a return to the industrial revolution. Notwithstanding these empty promises, the evidence is in and overwhelming on his vision of the future of the United States Postal Service.

**Exhibit #1:
White House Task Force on the United States Postal Service.**

This plan details the path to the dismantling of the Service and it comes directly from the White House. The White House report states on page 29 **“...many industrialized countries have pursued privatization of their postal systems – either completely or in part – to lower costs for consumers while improving service quality. For example, in 1995 the German government incorporated the German mail authority, creating the company Deutsche Post, which was majority-owned by the German government. In 2000, Germany launched an initial public offering (IPO) of Deutsche Post further privatizing the institution and raising \$5.6 billion.”** The report adds **“The USPS’s current business model has become outdated due to changes in technology, markets, and customer needs and preferences. It is unsustainable and must be fundamentally changed if the USPS is to avoid a financial collapse and a taxpayer-funded bailout... Reforming its business model, rather than simply providing relief, is necessary if the USPS is to survive in the digital economy.”** It should come as no surprise that this plan does not provide any relief from the onerous \$5.5 Billion Retiree Health Benefit albatross brought to us by the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act. No other public or private entity is burdened by the pre-funding requirement.

**Exhibit #2:
Office of Management and Budget**

Buried deep within the Office of Management and Budget report on page 68 they write **“This proposal would restructure the United States Postal System to return it to a sustainable business model or prepare it for future conversion from a**

Government agency into a privately-held corporation.” They add, **“A privatized Postal Service would have a substantially lower cost structure.”**

**Exhibit #3:
USPS Headquarters**

As reported by the Huffpost recently, an internal memo out of Postal Headquarters reveals a plan that directly aligns with the malignancies coming out of the White House. As reported **“The U.S. Postal Service wants Congress to help it make significant cuts to employee benefits as part of a plan to balance the agency’s books, according to a draft business plan Huff-Post obtained. The proposal would save an estimated \$18 billion on employee compensation over a decade by shaving paid leave, raising workers’ share of pension contributions, and shifting new employees into less secure 401(k)-style retirement plans. The change to pension contributions would amount to a cut in take-home pay for hundreds of thousands of workers, while saving the agency nearly \$7 billion. And while excluding new employees from a pension plan is common practice for private corporations these days, it would mark a significant shift for a federal-sector job long seen as a steppingstone to the middle class. The change in employee leave policy would combine vacation with sick days, likely resulting in fewer overall days off for workers.”**

Political Action Needed!

Legislative protection from our friends on Capitol Hill is critical to our survival. Recently, the Local’s Executive Board attended the National Legislative Conference where we met with the offices of both members of Congress and the Senate to express our concerns over the legislative direction of some in D.C. Your Local representatives met with 15 congressional offices covering all three states under our jurisdiction. However, there is so much more we can do and **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. Reach out to your own Congressional representative and ask them to support **H. Resolution 33** which requests that the House take all measures to prevent privatization, **H. Resolution 60** which requests that the House take all measures to restore the service standards that were in effect on July 1, 2012, **S. Resolution 99** which requests that the Senate, like the House, take all measures to prevent privatization, and to support the bill **H.R. 2382, the Fairness Act**, which ends the \$5.5 billion prefunding requirement. If you do not know your representative please call Union Headquarters and we will give you that information. These are desperate times Brothers and Sisters and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

In Union Solidarity
- John Gibson



Bob Losi - NPMHU Legislative Director, Mike Hora - National Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Rembelinsky, Nick Campellone, John Gibson, Joe Zelenenki, Brian Clark, Paul Hogrogian - National President, Mike Mohan, Terry O’Sullivan – LIUNA General President

**NPMHU, Local 308
President’s Report
June 2019**