



# National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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July 22, 2015

## VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
and General Government  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
and General Government  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

I am writing on behalf of the 45,000 members of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union to urge each of you, and your Senate colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to act during this week's markup to compel the U.S. Postal Service to restore its July 1, 2012 service standards for the processing and delivery of first-class and periodicals mail.

To this point, restoration of the USPS service standards that were in effect from July 1, 2012 until January 5, 2015 has been endorsed by a bipartisan coalition of the Congress. First, the Senate earlier this year overwhelmingly voted (85-11) on April 11, 2015 to urge the restoration of these service standards through the budget process. And then the House, in its Committee on Appropriations, voted on June 17, 2015, again on a bipartisan basis, to adopt an amendment to the FY2016 Financial Services bill that would require the USPS to "maintain and comply with service standards for First Class Mail and periodicals effective on July 1, 2012." The NPMHU hopes that this bipartisan support will also be adopted at this week's Financial Services and General Government markup.

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Only six months ago, on January 5, 2015, the Postal Service implemented a change in its service standards that eliminated much of its overnight delivery of first-class and periodical mail. (Initially, the change was scheduled for early 2014, but was postponed by the Postal Service because of pressure from Congress, among others.) Prior to this change, the service standards established on July 1, 2012 were in effect. Since this change, mail service to the American public has suffered greatly, as the tens of millions of families and businesses that depend on the Postal Service for timely processing and delivery have been greatly disappointed by the recent performance of the Postal Service.

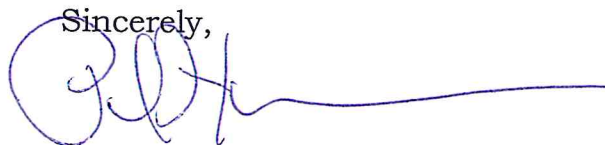
Nor has the Postal Service been able to justify its recently changed service standards using financial arguments. Although the Postal Service claims that these changes will result in savings of over \$1.5 billion in the first year alone, neither the Congressional Budget Office nor the Postal Regulatory Commission has ever been able to agree with the estimates or justifications proffered by USPS management. We refer you and your colleagues to the July 21, 2015 letter from our sister postal union, the American Postal Workers Union, for more details about these competing estimates.

While the actual financial impact remains disputed, no one – even the Postal Service – can disagree about the seriously negative impact that the January 5, 2015 implementation of the change in service standards has had, and will continue to have, on mail service to the American public. That ultimately is what is most important about the Postal Service, even if some small costs (representing considerably less than one penny in the price of a stamp) may be at stake.

The NPMHU therefore is asking the Senate Committee on Appropriations to exercise its authority to help restore prompt service standards through the appropriations process by endorsing the bipartisan language adopted by the House Committee on Appropriations during its markup on June 17, 2015.

Thank you for your consideration of our views in this matter.

Sincerely,



Paul V. Hogrogian  
National President  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

cc: NPMHU National Executive Board