



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

National Headquarters
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September 15, 2011

Re: Postal Service Elimination of Next-Day Delivery of First Class Mail in Local Areas

Dear Member of Congress:

We write to you as managers and supervisors of the United States Postal Service who are responsible for managing the vast postal network that assures the rapid delivery of the nation's mail.

Today the Postal Service announced its plan to study the significant downsizing of its mail processing and transportation network, which will bring about the elimination of next-day delivery of First class mail in local areas. Recent media attention has focused on the Postal Service's financial crisis and its approaching default of its retiree health care payment obligation. The postal crisis has slowly worsened over the past four years, sadly without Congressional intervention. Without the use of taxpayer dollars, the Postal Service has been forced to cut \$12 billion in costs and is now seeking additional, significant savings.

We believe that the Postal Service's network realignment plan and the elimination of next-day First Class delivery will be devastating to the public's use of mail, its expectations regarding its speed, and public support for its postal system. It will create a death spiral that will contribute to the demise of the Postal Service.

Elimination of next-day First Class delivery in local areas will result from the Postal Service's plans to reduce delivery standards, brought about by the contraction of its mail processing and transportation networks. Under the plan announced today, the Postal Service will seek to close almost 60 percent of the over 500 processing and distribution facilities that sort and prepare the mail for delivery. Many of these facilities are in Congressional districts across the country and are a source of approximately 100,000 jobs. The proposed closures will immediately result in a loss of over 30,000 postal jobs and move the Postal Service toward its goal of eliminating 150,000 jobs by 2015.

By closing such large numbers of facilities, the Postal Service will create greater distances that mail must be transported for sorting prior to delivery. Mail will continue to be processed by high-state technology and personnel in a matter of minutes, but then stored for hours before moving on to delivery. These changes will require the Postal Regulatory Commission's approval of the relaxation of the current Postal Service delivery standard, which requires overnight delivery of First Class mail to and from locations within 60-80 miles of a processing facility. Currently, nearly every piece of local First Class mail is delivered overnight, consistent with current Postal Service standards.

The elimination of overnight delivery of First Class local mail will affect approximately 50 percent of all First Class mail. This means that the speed of a huge portion of the nation's communication and commerce will be slowed considerably. By eliminating Saturday delivery and then relaxing the First Class local delivery standard, the Postal Service will have doubled, and over weekends quadrupled, the time required to send a local letter. This relaxation of a critical mail delivery standard, ironically, will erode service quality to a level that existed more than a half-century ago. This in turn will erode public use and satisfaction with the nation's mail system. Commerce and the economy itself will suffer. Ultimately, the attractions of the internet as an alternative for personal and business communication will only accelerate. In a high-tech age of speed where faster is better, the elimination of overnight delivery will set the Postal Service on a death march.

The nation and its postal system does not need to head down this disastrous course. The best way to resolve the immediate lies through passage of legislation that would realign the Postal Service's pension and retiree health obligations -- without using taxpayer money or resorting to extreme disruptions of service.

We urge prompt Congressional passage of this balanced approach to resolve the financial crisis and restore the stability and value of the United States Postal Service.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Atkins", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Louis M. Atkins
President