

# Comments from Congressional Hearing June 24, 2010

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## **Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)**

- I disagree with the idea that eliminating Saturday delivery would be acceptable.

## **Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK)**

- Not requiring the consideration of the USPS' financial status during arbitration is "idiocy."

## **Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)**

- Connolly disputed the USPS' claim of a \$238 billion loss by 2020. The USPS can make significant cost savings already today.
- This is a scare tactic that's meant to be substituted to a viable, alternative business model.
- It is self-defeating for a business to cut services when it's in the service business.

## **Paul Misener, Vice President of Global Public Policy, Amazon.com**

- We have supported the Postal Service's efforts to become more competitive.
- Elimination of Saturday delivery of parcels would not be in either businesses' or the USPS' best interests.
- Elimination of Saturday delivery would be a bad idea.

- Ceasing Saturday delivery would be much worse for rural customers. The alternatives are less.
- The USPS would lose the competitive advantage of Saturday delivery.
- Amazon would be forced to look to other parcel deliverers, thus increasing the USPS' volume and revenue loss.
- Saturday delivery needs to be maintained.

**Donald Hall, Jr.**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hallmark Cards, Inc.

- Given this economic situation, the idea of increasing postal prices won't work and will make matters worse. There needs to be a more viable and sustainable alternative.
- The USPS is proposing to increase prices and reduce service (five-day delivery).
- Reject this reduced mail service proposal.
- Correct the pre-funding requirement for health retiree costs. Extend the schedule time frame.

- Correct the CSRS over-funding.
- Allow the USPS to close excess facilities through a BRAC-like commission.
- Direct arbitrators to consider the financial position of the USPS in their deliberations and decisions.

**Allen Abbott**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, MenStyle, Inc.

- Allow the USPS to shift to a five-day delivery schedule.

- Please adjust the retiree health pre-funding and CSRS over-payment situation.

**Keith McFalls**, Vice President of Operations, PrimeMail and Triessant, Prime Therapeutics

- Regular mail delivery is desirable and necessary for patient welfare and needs.
- Elimination of Saturday mail delivery will adversely affect the delivery of prescription drugs.
- Making counter service at postal facilities won't help those who can't travel to get their medications.
- If Saturday delivery is eliminated, pharmacies will look to alternative delivery service providers.
- The USPS needs product and pricing flexibility.
- We might be willing to pay a Saturday delivery surcharge if one were required.

**Andrew Rendich**, Chief Service and DVD Operations Officer, Netflix, Inc.

- The USPS should have the ability to change technologies and services as demand shifts.
- Multiple proposals put forward by the USPS in its action plan will enhance mail service.
- Preserving a viable Postal Service is more important than prohibiting the USPS to end Saturday delivery.  
We're going to be shipping DVDs for another 20 years.

**Don Cantriel**, President, National Rural Letter Carriers Association

- Unusually low mail volume has hurt the Postal Service. Reducing days of mail delivery will make things worse.
- Don't support the USPS' five-day service request.
- Businesses and consumers will move their business out of the mail and bring it elsewhere. Once lost it will be lost for good.
- Going to five-day will harm rural letter carrier employment.
- The better way is to correct the retirement liability funding dilemma. Correcting this would save the USPS billions of dollars.
- The USPS can initiate internal cost-cutting activities right now.
- Reduce supervisors and reduce field district offices.

**Mr. Frederic Rolando**, President, National Association of Letter Carriers

- Postal employees and management will have to seek win-win answers at the collective bargaining table.
- We need Congress to address the pre-funding issue. The approach taken in PAEA was deeply flawed. This, **not the recession or the internet**, is responsible for the Postal Service's current fiscal dilemma.
- The OIG has provided a road map to sensible reform. This would correct OPM's cost calculation error.
- Eliminating Saturday delivery would be a terrible blunder. This proposal should be rejected.

**William Burrus**, President, American Postal Workers Union

- We reject the projection that mail is destined to perpetually decline. Mail volume *will* grow.
- The pre-funding issue must be corrected and modified.
- Don't approve drastic reductions in service, e.g., elimination of Saturday delivery.
- The USPS ***must eliminate excessive work share discounts. They take away work and subsidize commercial mailers.***
- Those who advocated passage of PAEA must accept responsibility for the faults in the law.

**Charles Mapa**, President, National League of Postmasters

- Fixing the retirement related issues is absolutely essential.
- Post offices are not primarily retail service establishments, but rather are an integral part of delivery functions.
- The post office network is greatly underutilized and could be used for other purposes.

**Robert Rapoza**, President, National Association of Postmasters of the United States

- The Postal Service needs to be liberated from needless and harmful retirement funding requirements.
- Understaffing has led to late delivery.

Comments recorded by Lisa Bowes, <http://www.intelisent.com/postalaffairsblog/?p=1806>