

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**Empower the United States Postal Service to
Thrive in the 21st Century**

Co-sponsor The Bipartisan House Resolution to Preserve Six-Day Mail Delivery

*Endorsed by the Envelope Manufacturers Association, Greeting Card Association,
National Association of Letter Carriers, and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association*

Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is seeking to stem revenue losses that partially result from declining first class mail volume by accelerating mail volume cuts, which will only lead to greater first-class mail revenue losses. The Postal Service's misguided – and nearly four decades old – proposal to unilaterally eliminate a critical competitive advantage, Saturday mail delivery, would kick off a vicious cycle. Further reductions in mail volume would lead to the closure of rural post offices across the country, many of which have been saved by Congress in recent years.


Prior market analysis commissioned by USPS indicates that in the first year alone, total mail volume reductions of just 7.7 percent could equal revenue losses of \$5.3 billion for the Postal Service. Worse, if this service cut is fully implemented, it would not only damage USPS' competitiveness, but it would harm millions of Americans across the country, from rural communities to urban metropolitans.

Despite the Postmaster General's (PMG) support of eliminating Saturday mail delivery as a response to current market conditions, there is a reason that both he and the three prior PMGs have all failed to enact this harmful proposal. Ending six-day mail delivery would devastate elderly Americans living in rural communities and small businesses that rely on USPS to deliver time-sensitive legal documents. Further, there are no guaranteed cost-savings for this proposal, particularly as the Postal Service simultaneously seeks to dramatically expand parcel deliveries on Saturday and Sunday.

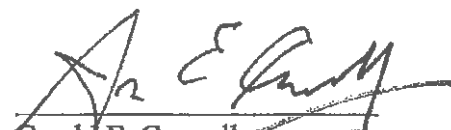
While USPS has never seriously examined the consequences of its proposals in a transparent manner, Members of Congress understand that even in 2015, many constituents and rural communities still lack access to quality, affordable internet service. Cutting off mail service may not harm the PMG, but it will effectively isolate Americans living in low density regions, forcing them to endure costly, prolonged deliveries to pay bills or receive income.

Our bipartisan resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that USPS should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of six-day mail delivery service. Since 1912, this tradition of reliable service six days a week has been the mainstay of USPS, and remains to this day a critical competitive advantage that our nation should sustain.

Sincerely,


Sam Graves
Member of Congress

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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress