

APWU CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

**American
Postal
Workers
Union,
AFL-CIO**

WILLIAM BURRUS
PRESIDENT

Before The

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL
WORKFORCE,
POSTAL SERVICE AND THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA**

**The Cost and Benefits of the
Reemployment of
Federal Part-time Annuitants**

**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM BURRUS
PRESIDENT
AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS
UNION,
AFL-CIO**

1300 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-842-4250
Fax 202-842-4297
www.apwu.org

May 20, 2008



Chairman Davis, Representative Marchant, and Members of the Subcommittee:
Thank you for holding this hearing to examine proposals that would permit the re-employment of federal retirees without a reduction in their annuity. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the importance of such proposals and their impact upon the ability of the USPS to provide postal services to the American people.

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA) afforded the Postal Service new freedoms to compete in the communications and service industries. To successfully serve the American public, the USPS shall need to utilize all available tools without artificial restrictions.

Unfortunately, current regulations discourage experienced and committed retired employees from returning to work for the Postal Service. For example, the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 has been interpreted as requiring retired postal employees to suffer a diminution of their annuity if they return to postal employment. This requirement has acted as a barrier to re-employment.

The American Postal Workers Union favors removing the impediments to re-employment of retired postal employees. We support proposals that would permit the USPS to utilize the services of skilled former employees who wish to resume their employment without sacrificing their annuity.

The American Postal Workers Union is the bargaining agent for approximately 300,000 postal employees in the clerk, maintenance, and motor vehicle crafts, and over the past 37 years we have successfully negotiated the conditions of employment for the workers we represent.

In 2006, we negotiated agreements governing the re-employment of annuitants, but we have been forced to defer implementation of the agreements because of the regulatory restrictions on the use of annuitants. If legislation expanding the opportunities for re-employment of postal retirees were adopted, we would welcome the inclusion of these annuitants in the postal supplemental work force. The skills and experience postal retirees have gained over their active careers would be an asset to the Postal Service and to the citizens of our country.

We note that one of the bills under consideration (HR 3579) refers to the Re-Employment of Retired Federal Employees. To ensure that it is clear that this legislation applies to retired postal workers, we ask that any bill being considered be amended to include retirees and employees of the United States Postal Service.

The workforce of the future will, of necessity, include a blend of the young and old, with each category contributing their special skills to the tasks of growing our

economy. The old model of restricting the contributions of an earlier generation is outdated and limits our nation's potential. The federal government should recognize that retirees are among of our nation's greatest resources, and allow the Postal Service to become an example of the workforce of tomorrow. The adoption of such legislation would be a positive step in this direction.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer the views of our union on this important legislation, and thank you for your foresight and wisdom in considering issues that will shape the workforce of the future. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.