



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

February 9, 2009

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President
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Mr. John Potter
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Potter:

This is to express the union's dismay at the steps outlined in the Feb. 4 edition of *USPS NEWS LINK EXTRA*, which are cited as a response to the worsening financial crisis confronting the Postal Service.

It is extremely disappointing that not a single step is aimed at reducing the loss of revenue from "worksharing" discounts or from subcontracting. Considering the severity of the current crisis, I fail to understand USPS strategy, which continues to subsidize private mail "pre-sorters," transportation providers, drop-shippers and others.

I am particularly disturbed by USPS plans to consolidate "excess" capacity in its mail processing and transportation networks while Postal Service policy encourages the growth of private entities that perform these duties.

An example that clearly illustrates this point involves two of the many consolidations the Postal Service is considering: While the USPS is studying the feasibility of consolidating its mail processing operations in City of Industry and Long Beach, CA, into other locations, Pitney Bowes has announced the opening of a new 84,000 square foot mail-processing facility in Corona, CA, less than 50 miles away from the USPS plants. The new plant will be financed through worksharing discounts offered by the USPS, and its workers will perform duties that could be performed more efficiently by postal employees.

The challenges facing the Postal Service require a review of the *entire* postal network; simply cutting USPS-operated facilities and USPS employees is unfair and will not solve the Postal Service's financial crisis. The Postal Service has reduced postal work hours by more than 100 million over the last four years, without a single adjustment in the billions of dollars lost to discounts and subcontracting.

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The USPS cannot survive if it continues to subsidize the revenue stream of private service providers through subcontracts and “worksharing” discounts. The Postal Service is the center of the entire mailing industry. If we fail, the private mailers will fail as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Burrus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "B".

William Burrus
President

cc: USPS Board of Governors

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