



## American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

May 14, 2002

William Burrus  
President  
(202) 842-4246

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

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William Burrus  
President

Cliff "C.J." Guffey  
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Central Region

Jim Burke  
Eastern Region

Elizabeth "Liz" Powell  
Northeast Region

Terry R. Stapleton  
Southern Region

Omar G. Gonzalez  
Western Region

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of 370,000 postal workers, I am writing to request that you reject recommendations to create a Presidential Commission on postal reform. Under the circumstances, we do not believe a commission is the appropriate forum to consider an issue as important as the future of our nation's universal mail service.

A bill proposing "reform" of the Postal Service will be introduced in Congress soon. It is unlikely Congress will have sufficient time this year to give the issue due deliberation and enact legislation, however, so the advocates of reform have turned to the executive branch to advance their self-serving goals. APWU members, who reside in every community throughout the nation, implore you to reject this course of action.

The American Postal Workers Union does not believe that the Postal Service is in need of reform. Apparently, the American people share our view -- opinion surveys repeatedly show they are highly satisfied with the affordable, dependable, universal postal service they currently enjoy. Mounting deficits are the cause of the Postal Service's current problems.

Frankly, we believe the Postal Service could solve its financial difficulties by discontinuing the massive subsidies it grants major mailers through heavily discounted postage rates. These annual subsidies are larger than the Postal Service's yearly deficits. If the postage discounts were adjusted to reflect only the costs the Postal Service avoids by accepting presorted mail, postal "reform" would be unnecessary. Incredibly, the Postal Service refuses to take this simple step.



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Unless it addresses this fundamental problem, a Presidential Commission cannot solve the Postal Service's financial difficulties without proposing drastic modifications to its universal service mandate.

The members of our union strongly oppose the creation of a Presidential Commission. Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,

  
William Burrus  
President

WB/lbb  
opeiu #2, afl-cio