

Resolution in Support of A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service is a national treasure, enshrined in the Constitution and supported by the American people. Without any taxpayer funding, the USPS serves 150 million households and businesses each day, providing affordable, universal mail service to all – including rich and poor, rural and urban, without regard to age, nationality, race or gender;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Postal Service belongs to “We, the People.” But the USPS and postal jobs are threatened by narrow monied interests aimed at undermining postal services and dismantling this great public institution;

WHEREAS, even some postal executives have been complicit in the drive toward the destruction of the Postal Service and ultimate privatization. They have slowed mail service, closed community based Post Offices and mail processing facilities, slashed hours of operations, tried ceaselessly to end six-day service as well as door to door delivery, and eliminated hundreds of thousands of living wage jobs;

WHEREAS, good postal jobs are vital to strong, healthy communities, and have provided equal opportunities and the foundation for financial stability for workers from all walks of life, including racial and ethnic minorities, women and veterans. Postal services are essential to commerce and bind together families, friends and loved ones. In the day of e-commerce, a public postal service is as relevant as ever;

WHEREAS, yet those corporate forces who want to privatize public services allege that curtailing postal services and eliminating jobs are necessary due to diminishing mail volume and “burdensome” union wages and benefits. Nothing could be further from the truth;

WHEREAS, in reality, a Congressionally-manufactured USPS “crisis” imposed an unfair crushing financial mandate on the Postal Service that no other government agency or private company is forced to bear. (The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 compels the USPS to pay approximately \$5.5 billion per year to fund future retiree healthcare costs 75 years in advance.) Without this unreasonable burden, the USPS would have enjoyed an operating surplus of \$600 million in 2013, over \$1.4 Billion in 2014;

WHEREAS, the people of this country deserve great public postal services and **A GRAND ALLIANCE TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE** advocates expanded services, such as non-profit postal banking and other financial services and calls on the Postmaster General and Postal Board of Governors to strengthen and champion the institution;

WHEREAS, A GRAND ALLIANCE TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE is organized around the principle that the public good must not be sacrificed for the sake of private investment and profit and that a strong public Postal Service is our democratic right.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That **the Maine AFL-CIO** joins **A GRAND ALLIANCE TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE** in the fight to protect and enhance vibrant public postal services now – and for many generations to come.

Submitted by: Executive Board