

**BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20268-0001**

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION

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Docket No. PI2008-3

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF
JOHN JOACHIM, HAZELDEN FOUNDATION**

June 5, 2008

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JOHN JOACHIM ON BEHALF OF
HAZELDEN FOUNDATION**

I. INTRODUCTION

My name is John Joachim. I am Manager of Material Services for Hazelden Foundation, headquartered in Center City, Minnesota. I very much appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Commission in this case.

The Hazelden Foundation is a world leader in addiction treatment and recovery. It promises patients, families and customers the best opportunity for lifelong recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. Hazelden accomplishes this through a commitment to treatment, publishing, education, research, public advocacy and shared learning with other organizations. We treat the whole person, as well as the illness. We treat every person with dignity and respect.

In my position at Hazelden, I manage the corporate mail center, duplication, receiving and materials movement, and central supply. I have held this position for 10 years.

The mail sent by the Hazelden Foundation consists of Nonprofit Standard, Standard, First-Class, Priority, Express, Certified, and Registered. It is used to solicit donors and raise funds; provide research information to health care professionals; communicate events to former clients, families, and friends; distribute merchandise catalogs, educational materials and newsletters to alumni, professionals and other stakeholders.

The Commission's inquiry into the universal service obligation and the postal monopoly has important implications for mailers like the Hazelden Foundation. We rely on the Postal Service to:

- Deliver our solicitations, newsletters, research documents, and written communications to households and business addresses throughout the United States, in cities, suburbs and rural areas.
- Deliver our mail almost every day of the week.
- Provide service at rates that reflect the value of our message to society, and which will not increase faster than the Consumer Price Index.

It is also important that certain types of mail retain the value of security and a protection against inspection. We must maintain the anonymity of our clients and adhere to HIPPA regulations.

We would oppose any change in the postal monopoly that would deny the Postal Service the revenues needed to continue to provide service on these terms.

At the same time, however, I have heard that the opening up of other monopoly services—e.g., trucking, air transportation, local telephone service—to end-to-end competition has not undermined universal service in those industries, and that competitive entry has forced the incumbent carrier to become more efficient, and that prices to end users have declined in real (inflation-adjusted) terms by as much as 50-60 percent. Whether these other industries are comparable to the Postal Service is an empirical question that I am not qualified to answer. I urge the Commission, however, to investigate the issue carefully, and to base its recommendations on the facts.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.