

**BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20268-001**

REPORT TO CONGRESS: UNIVERSAL)
POSTAL SERVICE AND THE) DOCKET NO. PI2008-3
POSTAL MONOPOLY)

**REPLY COMMENTS OF
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS
(August 1, 2008)**

The National Association of Postal Supervisors respectfully submits these reply comments pursuant to Order No. 71, *Universal Service Obligation*, issued by the Commission on April 18, 2008, and published in the Federal Register at 73 Fed. Reg. 23507 (April 30, 2008).

Over the course of the past three months in connection with the underlying proceeding, the Commission has held four public hearings, a public workshop, and received scores of written comments from a wide variety of stakeholders and interested parties. This inquiry has yielded more public input than any other proceeding initiated by the Commission since its inception. On the basis of the public comment received, it is undeniably clear that there is broad public consensus for the preservation of the universal service obligation and the postal monopoly.

While declining First Class mail volume, rising fuel costs, a softening economy, and increasing service requirements challenge the Postal Service in a number of ways, it has been wisely noted by a number of commentators that the nation's postal system has retained a remarkable capacity to evolve, adapt and endure over the course of its life. Throughout its 231-year history, the Postal Service has continued to embrace the goal of universal mail service and satisfied the expectations of both senders and recipients of mail, regardless of their geographic location. The preservation of these public expectations should remain a core premise of the Commission's report. Similarly, unless the Commission finds that there are cost savings and collateral merit so significant as to convincingly demonstrate the viability of an alternative delivery schedule, six-day delivery should also remain the norm. The public expects no less.

FedEx and the National Newspaper Association, in comments filed with the Commission, have favored the relaxation of the mailbox rule, suggesting that homeowners be permitted to indicate whether they would like to receive unstamped mail from registered companies. In response to these comments, which coincidentally reflect only a minority view, NAPS urges the Commission to affirm and maintain the privacy and integrity of the mail through preservation of the mailbox rule. This would properly extend the same policy approach embraced by the Congress and the President in the enactment of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, Public Law 109-435.

NAPS respectfully requests that the Commission base its findings and recommendations on the principles stated in these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Keating
National President
National Association of Postal Supervisors
1727 King Street Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

August 1, 2008