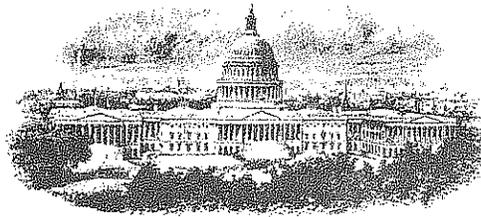


DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2009

The Honorable John E. Potter
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Potter:

The Alaska Congressional Delegation thanks you for your service to this nation and appreciates your willingness to consider this letter. Your staff has kept us well informed of changing policies and for that we are grateful.

We are writing to express our concern with the pending rate increase in the parcel post rate structure, which will be enacted on May 11, 2009. We understand the United States Postal Service (USPS) is losing money during this economic downturn and must increase rates to minimize costs and maximize profits. However, we are very concerned what the adverse impacts the rate changes will have on the Alaska bypass system and the residents of rural Alaska. As you may know, this is an area of the country that is already experiencing severe economic challenges with double digit unemployment in most villages, where the cost of basic goods like milk and gasoline are the highest in the nation and where job opportunities are severely limited.

We are in receipt of a letter that was delivered to your office by a group representing air carriers from Alaska and have attached it for your reference. The letter outlines the position taken by Alaska's four part 121 mainline carriers. After meeting with this group, we have concluded that the approach they have proposed is constructive and worthy of serious consideration by the USPS. We support their idea of applying the 70 pound rate across the bypass mail system to mitigate the economic burden the rate increase will have on residents of rural Alaska.

We also encourage you to maintain staffing of the Alaska Regional office to support the ongoing task force consisting of the USPS, shippers, and carriers. This will allow them to continue their efforts to develop plans to drive down the cost of operating the Alaska bypass mail system. These proposals will save money and allow rural Alaskans to survive this economic downturn.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to keep us informed on current issues relating to the USPS's business in Alaska and look forward to continued mutual cooperation on your issues as they relate to the Great State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of three Alaska representatives: Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Mark Begich, and Congressman Don Young. Each signature is written in cursive and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a baseline for the printed names below.

Senator Lisa Murkowski Senator Mark Begich Congressman Don Young