

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Postal Regulatory Commission  
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Official Business



State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182

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Postal Regulatory Commission  
Dan Blair, Chairman  
901 New York Avenue, Northwest  
Suite 200  
Washington DC 20268-0001

March 2, 2009

Dear Mr. Blair:

As members of the Alaska State Senate and the Alaska House of Representatives, we are writing to urge you not to increase the rates for Parcel Post, and by extension, Bypass Mail. Collectively, we represent all of the communities in Alaska served by Bypass Mail, an area larger than the state of Texas in size.

Rural Alaska is suffering through an energy crisis which threatens the health and safety of its residents. With heating fuel costs of \$8-\$10 a gallon in some places, our constituents have to decide between keeping their houses warm and buying groceries. The increase in rates for Bypass Mail would mean an increase in the cost of essentials, and would have a devastating effect on those who are already coping with an untenable situation.

Raising the rates would strain an economy already suffering from the national downturn, as well as a critical lack of jobs. It would also impact the number of people flying in and out of rural Alaska, further harming the economy.

We understand that, like many, the United States Postal Service is struggling to deal with this challenging economic climate, but we urge you to consider the effect this rate increase will have on rural Alaska. If there is any other information you would like, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us. Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Representative Alan Austerman

Senator Lyman Hoffman

Representative Bryce Edgmon

Senator Albert Kookesh

Representative Richard Foster

Senator Donald Olson

Representative Bob Herron

Senator Gary Stevens

Representative Reggie Joule

Representative Woodie Salmon