

**Good afternoon.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Terry Miner. I am a Rural Letter Carrier in Seneca Falls, New York, a little village in the Finger Lakes area known as the birthplace of the “Women's Rights Movement”. I am also the State Steward for the New York Rural Letter Carriers Association. As State Steward, I oversee 2400 routes in New York State with many routes in excess of 100 miles; I represent nearly 4500 rural letter carriers, who carry routes of all sizes. A great many of these carriers deliver routes where they work six days a week. I have a 58-mile route with 578 customers who enjoy and depend on mail delivery each day, six days a week. My route is made up of both residential and business deliveries and I work every other Saturday. My customers are very diverse. They reside in senior citizen housing, developmentally disabled apartment complexes as well as customers in the traditional outlying rural areas. I have many Mennonite and Amish families that support their lifestyle by farming. These are folks that do not own computers. Do not use the Internet, nor do they shop or pay their bills online. These families do not communicate with cell phones, text messages or e-mails. They rely solely on the Postal Service for their communication needs. I have businesses on my mail route that depend on the Postal Service for their business needs as well.**

**Saturday mail delivery is an important communication and marketing tool. This communication tool is utilized by my customers, as well as citizens from all across the country in the rural areas. Many of my customers rely on the Postal Service to deliver their prescription medications. These customers depend on the Postal Service to deliver these medications on Saturday, simply because they are home from work to sign for their packages. The farmers on my route rely on the Postal Service to deliver medical supplies for their farm animals. They also receive live animals delivered through the mail. This type of mail is sensitive for delivery and is often delivered on Saturday because families are home to accept the delivery. If live animals were to be left in the post office for the weekend and not delivered on Saturday they would perish.**

**If the Postal Service eliminates Saturday delivery, my customers would be left with two options. They would be forced to drive a great distance to the post office to pick up their mail or possibly pay a higher price and surcharge to have another courier service deliver to their home on Saturday. For the most part, the elderly folks and the families in the Amish community do not drive, nor own motor vehicles. Many of these families live with fixed incomes and cannot afford to pay for an alternate delivery service to receive their much-needed items delivered to their doorstep.**

**Rural letter carriers have provided Rural Free Delivery to the rural families of America for well over 100 years. We are known as a “Post Office on Wheels” and we provide the same services to our customers from our delivery vehicles as they can receive by visiting the post office. We provide this service free of charge six days a week.**

**The carriers have also been the “eyes and ears” to the families in the neighborhoods providing them a level of security, particularly in remote rural areas. There have been many heroic acts by postal carriers in saving the lives of their postal patrons by simply noticing when things are out of order and alerting law enforcement and medical authorities.**

**In addition to the loss of service to our customers, there would also be a loss of jobs to our craft. If six-day delivery were to be eliminated, the rural craft would lose thousands of jobs. Many of our part-time, leave replacement employees only work on Saturdays in the absence of the regular carriers; good paying jobs are difficult to find, especially in rural areas. If mail was not delivered on Saturday, it would surely affect the financial stability of all rural carrier families. These are well-trained, professional employees that go above and beyond to service the needs of the customers and to reflect a positive image for the Postal Service.**

**I firmly support the continuation of six-day mail delivery that the American public and businesses have come to expect. Citizens and businesses will not pay and many cannot pay to use a Postal Service with inconsistent Saturday mail delivery. This will destroy the trust and service that goes against the principal which is the foundation of the Postal Service. That is “to give universal service to the American people”. Therefore, I ask that six-day mail delivery continue in order to ensure service for all businesses and families across America.**

**Thank you.**