

Jason Cabot
33 Leslie Rd.
Belmont, MA 02478

July 10, 2010

Subj: Public Comment on Matter # R2010-4

To the Postal Regulatory Commission,

I support the modest 5% increase proposed by the USPS. I do not believe such an increase would harm consumers.

However, the reasonableness of the USPS justifications should of course be evaluated in light of the PAEA – it seems that the USPS budget shortfall, which reoccurs yearly, is neither exceptional nor extraordinary. The purpose of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act seems entirely frustrated if the USPS can simply claim exceptional and extraordinary circumstances every year when it wishes to increase its rates. After all, the PAEA was passed, inter alia, to “create predictability and stability in rates,” “to maximize incentives to *reduce costs* and increase efficiency” (emphasis added) rather than increase rates, and “to establish and maintain a just and reasonable [rate] schedule.” 39 USC § 3622(b).

Moreover, the PAEA states that the USPS must maintain postal services “under best practices of . . . efficient, and economical management.” 39 USC § 3622(d)(1)(E). Before consenting to yet another rate increase, the PRC should determine whether the USPS is truly operating in an efficient and economical manner. The practices and operating expenses of competing private carriers should be compared to determine whether the USPS is complying with these requirements.

Finally, while I believe a 5% rate increase to be generally reasonable, I strongly oppose USPS’ concurrent proposal to shift to a five day delivery and processing schedule (#N2010-1).

Respectfully yours,

Jason Cabot