

DOCKET SECTION

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March 25, 1998

Manager, Mail Preparation and Standards
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW
Room 6800
Washington, DC 20260-2405

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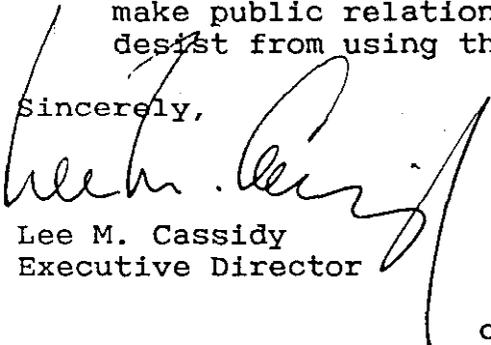
The following are the comments of the National Federation of Nonprofits on the *Federal Register* notice of March 16, 1998, relating to changes to the Domestic Mail Manual to implement proposed changes in Docket R97-1.

The "Summary of Proposed DMM Revisions" includes an outrageous collection of self-serving statements, beginning with "...the single-piece first-ounce letter rate (would) increase **only** one cent", and going on to such comments (under the heading of Rate Highlights for Standard Mail [A]) as "Reductions are proposed for most of the pound rates.", while failing to mention any proposed rate increases, including 15 percent **average** increases for nonprofit mail.

This exclusion of any mention of nonprofit rate increases, which follows the standard set by the public relations package which announced the R97-1 filing, is especially egregious considering that the Rate Highlights for Standard Mail (B) notes that "Because of cost increases, Parcel Post as a whole is proposed to have higher than average rate increases." So does Nonprofit Standard (A), but there is not one word in the notice to that effect.

The purpose of *Federal Register* notices is to announce intentions and actions, but is being used in this case to make public relations points. The Postal Service should desist from using the *Federal Register* for such purposes.

Sincerely,


Lee M. Cassidy
Executive Director

copies: John Ward, USPS
Michael Coughlin, USPS
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