

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

SECTION 701 REPORT

Docket No. PI2016-3

COMMENTS OF
A GRAND ALLIANCE TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE
(June 14, 2016)

A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service respectfully submits the following Comments in response to the Postal Regulatory Commission's April 14, 2016, Notice and Order Seeking Comments on Report to the President and Congress Pursuant To Section 701 of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA), Pub. L. 109-435, 120 Stat. 3198 (2006), § 701.

More than 130 national and local organizations have joined together to form A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service (AGA). Through public education and action, AGA is working to protect and strengthen our wonderful national treasure, enshrined in the Constitution and supported by the American people. Without any taxpayer funding, the USPS serves 150 million households and businesses each day, providing affordable, universal mail service to all – including rich and poor, rural and urban, without regard to age, nationality, race or gender.

The U.S. Postal Service belongs to "We, the People." But the USPS and postal jobs are threatened by narrow monied interests aimed at undermining postal services and dismantling this great public institution. Even some postal executives have been complicit in the drive toward the destruction of the Postal Service and ultimate

privatization: They have slowed mail service, closed community based Post Offices and mail processing facilities, slashed hours of operations, tried ceaselessly to end six-day service as well as door to door delivery, and eliminated hundreds of thousands of living wage jobs.

Good postal jobs are vital to strong, healthy communities, and have provided equal opportunities and the foundation for financial stability for workers from all walks of life, including racial and ethnic minorities, women and veterans. Postal services are essential to commerce and bind together families, friends and loved ones. In the day of e-commerce, a public postal service is as relevant as ever.

Yet, those corporate forces who want to privatize public services allege that curtailing postal services and eliminating jobs are necessary due to diminishing mail volume and “burdensome” union wages and benefits. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In reality, a Congressionally-manufactured USPS “crisis” imposed an unfair crushing financial mandate on the Postal Service that no other government agency or private company is forced to bear. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 compels the USPS to pay approximately \$5.5 billion per year to fund future retiree healthcare costs 75 years in advance. Without this unreasonable burden, the USPS would have enjoyed an operating surplus over the previous three years.

The people of this country deserve great public postal services. We advocate expanded services, such as non-profit postal banking and other financial services. We call on the Postmaster General and the Postal Board of Governors to strengthen and champion the institution.

The public good must not be sacrificed for the sake of private investment and profit. A strong public Postal Service is our democratic right. A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service is calling on the U.S. Postal Service and Congress to work together to:

1. Protect six-day and door-to-door delivery
2. Address the retiree health benefits pre-funding mandate.
3. Restore service standards to July 2012 levels.
4. Explore expanded services, including financial services.
5. Make permanent the moratorium on plant closings and consolidations.
6. Create a Board of Governors that champions the public postal service.

Respectfully submitted,

A GRAND ALLIANCE TO SAVE OUR PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE

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