Postal Regulatory Commission
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Re: Docket No. RM-2017-3, Ten Year Rate System Review Comments

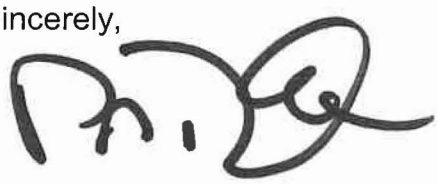
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Omaha Area Local #11 of the American Postal Workers Union to submit comments for the Ten Year Rate System Review. The workers of the Omaha Area Local, APWU represented are not only on the front line of mail processing and retail services, but also community members and mailers living and working in Omaha, Nebraska, Bellevue, Nebraska and Gretna, Nebraska. We have a unique perspective of understanding the financial challenges the United States Postal Service faces and its obligation to ensure universal service.

The current CPI rate cap has substantially hurt the financial condition of the Postal Service which in turn has led to a reduction in the quality of service it provides including the costs from consolidations, closures and service standard degradations that have affected prompt, reliable and efficient services. As mail volumes and service continue to decline, the price cap endangers the Postal Service's financial viability.

I use the Postal Service and value its existence. The PRC should eliminate the price cap to ensure that the USPS is able to generate the necessary revenue to remain a viable, thriving, public institution that provides prompt and affordable service. The USPS must have sufficient financial stability to ensure that it can operate in a manner that provides quality service to everyone, regardless of geographical area. Without a flexible system that allows the Postal Service to respond to demand, the economy, and costs, the Postal Service will be unable to deliver stable postal services.

Sincerely,



Philip D. Thomas, President
Omaha Area Local, APWU