



National Association of Letter Carriers

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July 7, 2008

Chairman David R. Obey
H-218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey,

On behalf of the nation's 300,000 active and retired city letter carriers, I write to express strong opposition to the Kingston Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Financial Services Appropriations Bill, which requests "a report on the cost effectiveness and fuel consumption of a five-day delivery system and the efficiency and consumer demand of Saturday delivery services of the U. S. Postal Service."

This amendment is clearly not in line with the thoughtful, measured approach to oversight of the Postal Service that characterized the dialogue between stakeholders and Congress during the consideration of postal reform legislation in recent years. It was slipped into the bill at the last minute of the committee process, bypassing the subcommittee specifically created to provide oversight of the Postal Service by the 110th Congress, the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Had it been consulted, that subcommittee would have informed the appropriators that a study of delivery frequency is already underway as part of a larger study of universal service called for by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA). The study, by the Postal Regulatory Commission, is to be completed by December 2008. Saddling the Postal Service with the responsibility for conducting or participating in a duplicative study of Saturday delivery is unnecessary and wasteful.

The postal reform legislation adopted by huge bipartisan majorities in 2006 was intended to give the U.S. Postal Service the flexibility it needs to increase efficiency and adapt to the realities and demands of the modern economy. The universal service study now underway will help it do that and, at the same time, address the issues raised by the Kingston amendment. I therefore urge you to oppose inclusion of the Kingston Amendment in the Financial Services Appropriations Bill/vote against a Financial Services Appropriation with the Amendment included.

Sincerely,

William H. Young
President