

What does and does not work



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What does not work is Rep. Darrell Issa's bill and Sen. Carper's bill. The Carper bill actually permits the Board of Governors to set the salary of the postmaster general. That's scary! It sounds like a raise is coming. How can they do that? They say the USPS is in dire need of money and then they do this. What are they thinking about? They are not thinking about the USPS, the American public or the employees. The PMG should not be making more than the head of the Department of Defense. This should be stricken from any bill.

Then we have the negative comments from the PMG over the past several years, which have scared many customers and led them to look at alternative means of communication, such as electronic means for both advertising and payment of bills. Have you been

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shown the PMG video at work, telling you that these bills are good for you? Anyone who still doubts that these pieces of legislation are not good for us has to be kidding. The overall bills together are not good for the USPS or our members.

It isn't rocket science to figure out what is wrong and to stop looking at the employees as if they are the problem. It is not the employees. They are the dedicated men and women who, despite all of this negativity, forced overtime, and the threat of being excessed, deliver the mail to the American public six days a week. That's right, six days a week—and it should stay that way, or go to seven days.

Both bills, S. 1486 and HR. 2748, are insulting to the employees and the American public. The latest endeavor outlined in the bills calls for “centralized delivery,” which means cluster boxes—and the end of door-to-door deliv-

ery. This will affect every household, and coupled with that is the fact that the mailing community will view this as a downgrade of services and look for other means to provide delivery to the actual home and into the hands of the homeowner. These are radical changes to an institution that has gone through many changes over the years and has maintained quality services as a result of the hard-working men and women of the USPS. This proposal is just plain foolish and should get no support from congressional leaders or the American public.

The House and Senate need to bring this to a close. What should not happen is that they make wholesale changes to everything under the sun, which would cause us more harm. Everyone knows that our problems stem from the 2006 pre-funding requirement. This is the first thing to fix. Then they need to fix the overpayments to FERS and CSRS. So why are they now talking about eliminating door-to-door delivery, changing health benefits and requiring us to negotiate our retirement benefits? They can't answer that question. It's the old “throw everything at the employees; something is bound to stick.” If they just fixed the pre-funding and retirement overpayments, and provided us flexibility and innovation, we would be instantly solvent. We would have a new beginning. No other changes are necessary; however, if they wanted to do the right thing, they could also change the governance structure for us. This would go a long way to help us both now and into the future. They need someone who cares about the organization, the American public and the employees.

Same-day delivery

I had a discussion with a Postal Service official who advised me that Amazon.com is very pleased with the on-time success that the USPS and letter carriers have provided to the company.

National Agreement

The parties have finalized the National Agreement. It has been sent to the printer. Once the contracts have been printed, they will be available for sale from the NALC Supply Department. We will announce the cost of the contract at a future date.

