



Happy new year!

The new year is here, and the issues confronting the Postal Service are ongoing. Binding our nation together as the first national network of communications for our country has served America well over the years.

However, we are being pulled in several directions. From the halls of Congress to the news media, the debate continues. Regardless of what is being said, the USPS connects every American home by going door to door six days a week. Some might want to make changes to that, but I say, "No way." The thought of going from six days of delivery to five days or fewer and/or forcing the American public to walk to a cluster box versus receiving door delivery is just unreal. The men and women of the USPS and the American public are not in agreement with those who have that in mind for the future.

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When the foolishness will stop is hard to tell. One concern is what the American public and the businesses of our country are thinking about all of this. Sooner or later, they will begin to look for alternatives to using the mail. That is something we don't want or need. It is best for the parties and Congress to act swiftly to resolve the issues, rather than to let this linger.

We still need to deal with the problem of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHBFF) payments. This pre-funding requirement is hurting the Postal Service. We need legislation to make a change that would eliminate the need to make these payments based on the financial circumstances that currently exist.

No one knew that the financial crisis that began in 2008 would hurt every industry and the American public like it did. There really is no need to rush to make these payments in advance based on the allotted time frame that the bill has imposed. They can be spread out

over time, which would make the payments more realistic. No other company or federal agency is required to do this; only the Postal Service is required to do so. It's quite unjust.

Giving us this freedom will hopefully give us the opportunity to continue with the current level of services we offer. Our future depends on the Congress doing its job and correcting the injustice of the 2006 PSRHBFF requirement. Without this obligation, the Postal Service would have netted a profit in fiscal years 2007 to 2010.

This coming November will bring about the U.S. presidential election. Congress has not been moving much legislation through, as the bipartisan debates continue. Just recently, the super committee failed to come to resolution on what spending cuts would be needed. This all adds to the confusion of fixing the Postal Service's problems in a fair and equitable manner, expeditiously.

You would think that Congress should be able to deal with this issue in a reasonable fashion, as the Postal Service is something that everyone utilizes, regardless of party affiliation. Right now, 227 members of Congress have signed on as co-sponsors to H.R. 1351, USPS Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act. In addition, 214 representatives have signed on as co-sponsors to H.Res. 137, which expresses the sense of the House that the USPS should take "all appropriate measures" to ensure continuation of six-day delivery.

With this kind of support, you would think things could be dealt with in a short amount of time. But that is not the case. The one thing we don't want is for Congress to overreact and make decisions that would detract from our current delivery system or hurt us in the future by imposing anything that would stifle our future potential.

Stay involved, register to vote, donate to COLCPE, and sign-up as an e-Activist and for the Carrier Corps. 2012 will be an extremely important year.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. Best wishes. ✉