



MARK A. GARDNER, National Secretary-Treasurer

STEP UP! SPEAK OUT! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The time is now for all Mail Handlers to STEP UP their game, and to make their voices heard to help enact responsible postal legislation. With legislative bills pending in both the House and the Senate, it is critically important that our Members of Congress clearly understand what is at stake. Regardless of one's political leanings, or your positions on various, oft-times divisive social issues, all Mail Handlers should agree on these core issues: that the ongoing financial health of the Postal Service is critical, along with its ability to maintain regular, predictable, and quality service to its customers; and equally important, that the job security, pay, benefits, working conditions, and union representation of its workforce remain completely intact.

The specifics included in various pieces of pending legislation are clearly detailed in other articles in this magazine, with even more information available on the NPMHU website at www.npmhu.org. Please take a moment to review those articles, further familiarize yourself with important legislative initiatives that will both provide financial relief to the Postal Service and secure the hard-fought rights and benefits of all Mail Handlers.

As many of you know, there have been countless postal legislative bills introduced in both chambers in recent years. Unfortunately, even those initiatives that met with bipartisan support have been allowed to

wither on the vine. There are, however, bills currently pending in both the House and the Senate that the NPMHU actively supports.

As this magazine heads to press, our union is engaged in a comprehensive lobbying effort along with our brothers and sisters from the American Postal Workers Union. We are actively supporting the core principles laid out in the Postal Service Protection Act—which is S. 316 in the Senate, introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and H. R. 630 in the House of Representatives, introduced there by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR). We also strongly support two other pending bills in the House of Representatives: H.R. 961—the United States Postal Service Stabilization Act—which was introduced by Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA); and H.R. 2459—the Protect Overnight Delivery Act—which was introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). These legislative proposals are detailed in documents at www.npmhu.org.

I strongly urge each and every Mail Handler to SPEAK OUT. Take those few minutes to pick up your phone, draft a short letter or e-mail, or otherwise call on the offices of your United States Senators and your Representative on the House side. I believe these few minutes of your time could ultimately save your job or the jobs of your friends and coworkers. Your action could help preserve important service and delivery

standards within the Postal Service, and might help delay or even reverse scheduled plant closings and consolidations. Your message could help provide financial relief based on the current inequitable pre-funding obligations imposed on the Postal Service. And perhaps of most importance, your individual message, combined with the collective voice of all Mail Handlers across the country, will help reinforce to Congress that it is high time that partisan politics be set aside, that they hit the pause button on political bickering and party line votes, and that they pass responsible and comprehensive reform. The time is now for Congress to do what is right for the United States Postal Service, its dedicated workforce, and the millions of customers who rely on its products and services.

If you have never contacted your Members of Congress before, this would be a great time to start. By stepping up, and speaking out, you can help MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the future of the United States Postal Service, and for your brother and sister Mail Handlers across the country.

Fraternally,

Mark A. Gardner
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