

## POSTAL LEGISLATION IN THE 114TH CONGRESS

# USPS NEEDS SOUND POSTAL REFORM

Unlike the most recent or 113th Congress, when over thirty-five postal bills were introduced, the first year of the current 114th Congress has not seen a similar glut of bills filed. But the NPMHU's goal, and the goal shared by our sister unions, is to pursue legislation that grows the business of the U.S. Postal Service, rather than tearing it down. This goal can be achieved by passing comprehensive postal reform that fixes the financial mess caused by required funding of the Retiree Health Benefits Fund, rolls back unwise changes in service standards, and prevents further closings and consolidating of mail processing installations. We have been and will continue to meet with all of the representatives from the mailing industry, from USPS management, and from our allies within the APWU, the NRLCA, and the NALC.

There is a growing recognition in the 114th Congress that there is a need to preserve and grow the entire industry surrounding the U.S. Postal Service. There is pending and drafted legislation that consists of bills and resolutions that have bi-partisan support to accomplish this goal. Below are some of these bills and their current status.

**The first three are resolutions. This type of legislation cannot be enacted into law, but is used to express the views of Congress and to suggest that the Postal Service take any and all appropriate actions to adhere to the congressional resolution. We support all three, as does the NALC, the NRLCA, and the APWU.**

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**H. Res. 54** Sponsor: Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)  
Introduced 1/27/2015

Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards in effect as of July 1, 2012.

This resolution has 229 co-sponsors and has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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**H. Res. 28** Sponsor: Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA)  
Introduced 1/12/2015

Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all business and residential customers.

This resolution has 179 co-sponsors and has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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**H. Res. 12** Sponsor: Rep. Sam Graves (R-CA)  
Introduced 1/6/2015

Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service.

This resolution has 228 co-sponsors and has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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**Also in the House of Representatives, numerous bills have been introduced that, if passed, would affect postal and federal employees. The following bills are supported by the NPMHU.**

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**H.R. 784** Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)  
Introduced 2/15/2015

Title: Protect Overnight Delivery Act  
Co-sponsors 102

Latest Major Action: 2/5/2015 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

This bill would force the USPS to reinstate service standards that were in effect on December 31, 2011.

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**H.R. 973** Sponsor: Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)  
Introduced 2/13/2015

Title: Social Security Fairness Act of 2015  
Cosponsors 131

Latest Major Action: 2/13/2015 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

This bill would benefit up to 1.5 million postal/federal retirees that currently fall under the restraints of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.

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The NPMHU has been on the forefront of recent attempts to adjust or eliminate the unjust impact of both the WEP and the GPO, ever since they were adopted during the Reagan Administration.

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**S. 2051** Sponsor: Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE)  
Introduced 9/17/2015

Title: Improving Postal Operations, Service, and Transparency Act of 2015 (iPost)

Latest Major Action: 1/21/2016 Hearings held by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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**These are the key pieces of legislation that could start the road to successful postal reform legislation, and to other actions sought by the NPMHU.**



ROBERT LOSI, Legislative and Political Director

### WHERE WE ARE TODAY

The NPMHU continues to work with the leadership and staff from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs to shape good, strong legislation.

President Hogrogian and his counterparts from the other postal unions have been working, at the same time, the senior management of the Postal Service and many of the major mailing groups to craft a solution that solves USPS financial issues, adds new sources of postal revenue, and keeps the Postal Service competitive.

For many years, all stakeholders have been touting the integral role that the mailing industry plays in today's American economy. The mailing industry employs over 7.4 million people and has revenues over \$1 trillion dollars yearly.

The Ponemon Institute has for the last seven years named the USPS the most trusted governmental agency, which is another reason why Members of Congress from both political parties need to support our nation's Postal Service and solve the existing problems, many of which are caused by unjustified congressional mandates.

### POLITICS

Amid all of the uncertainty of the current election season, it is certain that the nation will elect a new U.S. President in 2016. Also up in 2016 are 34 Senate seats, of which 24 are currently held by Republicans and 10 by Democrats. Also, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for reelection this year, as are 12 governors and all state legislatures.

The final election will be held on November 8, 2016. **Please register to vote, please be certain to vote, and please, when voting, keep your interests as Mail Handlers at the top of your agenda!**

**Robert Losi**  
Legislative and Political Director