

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

Nov—Dec, 2014 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com



About 200 postal workers, community members, and elected officials (including the Governor, Mayor and a U.S. Congressman) rallied to save the mail processing center in Duluth, MN on October 6th.

NOVEMBER 14th — National Day of Action Find the location near you: www.stopmaildelays.org

(Excerpts from a joint statement by the four postal union presidents) —

“The Postmaster General is poised to make devastating cuts in service to the American people – cuts so severe that they will forever damage the U.S. Postal Service.

On Jan. 5, the USPS is slated to lower “service standards” to virtually eliminate overnight delivery – including first-class mail from one address to another within the same city or town. All mail (letters, periodicals, packages) throughout the country will be delayed.

Beginning Jan. 5, 82 Mail Processing & Distribution Centers are scheduled to close. These cuts will cause hardships for customers, drive away business, cause irreparable harm to the U.S. Postal Service, and lead to massive schedule changes and reassignments for employees.

They are part of a flawed management strategy that has unnecessarily sacrificed service and failed to address the cause of the Postal Service’s manufactured financial crisis.

- More than 140 plants have closed since 2012;
- As a result, mail is delivered much later in the day, well into the evening;
- Retail work is being sent to Staples, at more than 1,500 stores throughout the country;
- Door delivery is being eliminated in most new housing developments;
- Chronic understaffing frustrates customers and slows the mail, and
- Six-day delivery is under constant threat.

The four postal unions are joining forces to protect service, fight for our livelihoods, and defend our great national treasure, the U.S. Postal Service. We have many allies in the fight against the proposed changes, including more than half the Senate and

160 U.S. Representatives.

We are calling for a National Day of Action on Friday, Nov. 14, the day the Board of Governors will hold their final public meeting of the year. Let’s send a message to the Postmaster General and the Board of Governors:

Stop Delaying America’s Mail!

CONGRESS DEMANDS PLANT CLOSURE MORATORIUM

Fifty-one Senators (over half the Senate!) and 160 House Representatives have signed onto a “Dear Colleague” letter, calling for a one-year moratorium on plant “consolidations” (closures) and July 1, 2012 delivery standards. The letters, addressed to the Appropriations Committees and the subcommittees on postal finances, say Congress should block a proposal by Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe to close as many as 82 mail processing plants; slow mail service, and eliminate up to 15,000 jobs. The letters urge leaders of the key committees to include a one-year ban on the cuts as part of must-pass legislation to keep the government running past December 11th, the end date of the current “continuing resolution.”

CALL YOUR SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVE TODAY!

The “Dear Colleague” letter is still circulating in the House & Senate calling for a one-year moratorium on plant closures. Ask your Congress persons to sign on! Go to <http://capwiz.com/apwu/home/> or call the Congressional switchboard # 202-225-3121 and they can connect you to your congressman/woman’s office based on your zip code.

***Tell Congress: Co-sponsor HR 711, which supports retaining door delivery for businesses and residents, and HR 30 to ensure 6-day delivery.
Co-sponsor S316 (Sanders) and HR 630 (DeFazio) – the Postal Service Protection Act .***

OREGON POSTAL PRESIDENTS CALL ON CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO DEMAND A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

(Excerpts from a letter to Oregon's Senators and House Reps)

"...Around the country, where our communities have been successful in saving plants from closure, it's been when U.S. Senators and Representatives have demanded face-to-face meetings with the PMG and have insisted on answers and proof.

Why has the postal service ignored its own study, showing these cuts and closures would lose more in revenue than they would save in labor costs? Why haven't new Area Mail Processing Feasibility Studies been done, since the three year old AMPs don't factor in the new, lower wage structures, the massive increase in parcel volume or the added long-haul transportation costs? Why haven't new community meetings been called to assess the impact of new delivery standards on area stakeholders?..."

DON'T BUY STAPLES! BRIEFS

•On October 7th, the USPS and Staples announced that the "Approved Shipper" program would be expanded from 82 pilot sites to all 1,500 Staples stores.

•At about the same time, the USPS awarded "Approved Shipper" contracts to "Going Postal" a subcontractor with plans to set up pack-and-ship counters in 2,000 Walmart stores (half the Walmarts in the USA).

•The "Approved Shipper" program, which offers comprehensive postal services, including first class, priority, express, express international, priority international, parcel post, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, certified, insured and return receipt, will expand from its current 6,000 outlets to almost 10,000 with the new Staples and Walmart contracts.

•Occupy San Francisco/ First They Came for the Homeless camped for more than three months in front of a Berkeley Staples mini-post office, turning away many customers and spreading word of the boycott. Their supporters include the Berkeley Post Office Defenders.

•For more information, go to StopStaples.com

POSTAL PROTESTERS CHARGES DISMISSED

"Postal defenders" in Portland, Oregon won a reprieve on November 1st. A county judge dismissed criminal charges in a civil disobedience protest case which was over two years old, saying the defendants' constitutional right to a speedy trial had been violated.

Ten protesters were arrested on criminal trespass charges inside the now-closed University Station post office on May 24, 2012. While peacefully holding banners which called for "No Closures, No Cuts" and "Occupy the Post Office", the ten – members of labor unions, faith groups, neighborhood organizations, small business owners, a disabled vet, retirees and the Occupy movement – refused to leave until postal management agreed to keep postal facilities open and full service.

Over two years later, after a legal fight that went to the Oregon Supreme Court, the occupiers had hoped to get their day in court before a jury. The activists would have argued that they had tried every other means available – letter writing, phone calls, Congressional visits, rallies, marches, petitions, community hearings, City Council resolutions – but had been unable to stop the dismantling of the postal service by the Postmaster General (PMG).

The protestors planned to argue that, in refusing to leave, they were attempting to stop the closure of one-half the nation's mail processing plants, the gutting of service at half the country's post offices and the delay of mail.

The defendants will continue to argue that the real criminal is the PMG, who violates the Constitution (Article 1, sec. 8), Title 39 and Title 18, sec. 1701 & 1708 of the US Code by willfully obstructing & delaying the mail.



Berkeley Postal Defenders are back, encamped on the steps of the Berkeley Post Office, after the USPS announced on Nov. 1 that it sold the office. Meanwhile, the city is filing an injunction against the sale, based on their new "zoning overlay" which mandates the building be used for civic purposes only. The threatened sale had earlier sparked a month-long encampment in August of 2013.

SENIORS AND DISABLED JOIN CANADIAN POSTAL WORKERS TO CHALLENGE END OF DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY

Claiming that Parliament, not Canada Post, must make the decision about establishing Community Mailboxes (CMB) to replace door-to-door delivery, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers is filing a lawsuit based on a constitutional mandate, saying the policy violates section 50 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because of the impact it would have on the disabled and the elderly. Senior and disabled groups are joining the suit.

Canada Post began establishing CMB delivery routes on October 20 as part of a national plan to eliminate at-the-door delivery within five years. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers, municipalities, and community groups are fighting the plan.

Organizations representing the disabled, seniors groups, farmers organizations, and community activists have joined rallies across the country. Opponents of the plan are meeting with mayors, municipal representatives, Members of Parliament, small business owners, and community groups. Many cities have passed resolutions in favor of door-to-door delivery.

In areas that already have the outdoor community mailboxes, snow and ice have been a problem. Now the public is facing the prospect of hundreds of thousands of expensive, inconvenient, inaccessible, snowed-in community mailboxes. The corporation is also musing about putting the mailboxes in convenience stores.

Canada Post estimates 6,000-8,000 letter carriers and associated jobs will be lost. Centralizing delivery might make the corporation more appealing to privateers, who could service the mailboxes with less labor. Already private companies are offering to collect patrons' mail from the CMBs and bring it to the door for a monthly fee



Keep up on the latest fightback!

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