

Press Release  
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Office of Senator Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact:  
Larry Levin  
O: [\(916\) 651-4009](tel:9166514009)  
C: [\(916\) 203-2005](tel:9162032005)

## **LEGISLATURE URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT U.S. POSTAL SERVICE & PRESERVE HISTORIC CALIFORNIA POST OFFICES**

Sacramento – The California Legislature has passed Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 15, urging Congress to enact the Postal Protection Service Act of 2013. The Legislature joins 31 California Members of Congress who are co-sponsors of the Act.

The federal legislation would:

- Repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service (USPS) pre-fund pension and health benefits for 75 years; a condition imposed on no other public agency or private business.
- Allow USPS to provide new services for customers.
- Keep historic and rural postal offices open.
- Prohibit cuts to Saturday service

Senator Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley), author of the Resolution, said, “The claimed financial crisis facing the Post Office has been created by Congress and Congress can fix it. In 2006, a Republican-dominated Congress required the Postal Service to pre-pay the benefits of all employees for the next 75 years. No other government institution or private company has ever had to do that.”

The Senator added, “Now, those who want to privatize the U.S. Postal Service say the Post Office is ‘broke’ and must sell off its most beautiful buildings for cash to operate -- when in reality, from 2007 to 2011, the Postal Service actually saw a \$700 million profit in its operations! Additionally, they reported an operating profit of \$100 million for the first quarter of 2013.”

The Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 will provide additional oversight and transparency to the Postal Service’s current plans to close, relocate or sell 3,270 post offices including a number of historic post office buildings. Historic post offices in California that are on the chopping block include offices in Palo Alto, Redlands, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, South Gate, Ukiah, Venice, Berkeley,

Santa Rosa, Burlingame, Fullerton, Glendale, Huntington Beach, and La Jolla.

The Act authorizes the Postal Service to look for innovative ways to make money by lifting current bans on providing services such as notarizing documents, issuing hunting and fishing licenses and allowing shipments of wine and beer. It also would clear the way for the Postal Service to help customers take advantage of email and Internet services.

SJR 15 passed the Assembly on September 9, 2013 on a vote of 51-25 and the Senate on September 10<sup>th</sup> on a vote of 27-10. It was supported by Democrats and Republicans in both Houses.