
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8022

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senator Chase

Read first time 01/29/16. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Security.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE UNITED STATES
5 POSTMASTER GENERAL, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF
6 WASHINGTON:

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
8 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
9 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

10 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service handles 40 percent of
11 the world's mail; and

12 WHEREAS, Revenue from first-class mail, amounting to \$28.3
13 billion in fiscal year 2015, was the largest single component of the
14 postal service's \$68.8 billion operating revenue for the year; and

15 WHEREAS, On January 5, 2015, the United States Postal Service
16 implemented reduced "service standards" that resulted in virtually
17 eliminating overnight delivery of first-class mail and periodicals,
18 and caused further delay of most other classes of mail; and

19 WHEREAS, Delayed mail negatively impacts businesses, hurts
20 residents, communities, and the economy, and drives customers away,
21 resulting in lower revenue and damaging the financial situation of
22 the United States Postal Service; and

1 WHEREAS, By reducing "service standards," the United States
2 Postal Service can proceed with its plans to close 82 mail processing
3 facilities nationwide, seriously affecting thousands of employees,
4 over 22 percent of whom are United States military veterans, many
5 with disabilities; and

6 WHEREAS, Three mail processing facilities, located in Redmond,
7 Tacoma, and Wenatchee, are planned to be closed, negatively affecting
8 mail processing and delivery times across the state; and

9 WHEREAS, Strong service standards for the processing and delivery
10 of mail by the United States Postal Service are essential to
11 providing prompt and timely delivery of the mail, including letters,
12 legal documents, online purchases and packages, bill payments,
13 medicines, local newspapers, newsletters, invitations, and mail-in
14 ballots; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service has the authority to
16 reinstate overnight delivery standards to hasten mail delivery and
17 prevent shutdowns of mail processing facilities;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray:

19 (1) That Congress protect United States mail service as a
20 valuable and cherished public resource which is managed, operated,
21 and directly accountable to the people of the United States;

22 (2) That Congress require the United States Postal Service to
23 restore "service standards" in effect as of July 1, 2012, and place a
24 moratorium on planned shutdowns of mail processing facilities, and
25 further that Congress oppose any postal reform legislation that does
26 not continue the mandate six-day delivery service of all mail or does
27 not protect door-to-door delivery of all mail as it currently exists;

28 (3) That the Secretary of State of the state of Washington
29 publicly oppose changes in the United States Postal Service that
30 negatively impact the rights of Washington state voters who vote by
31 mail-in ballot.

32 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
33 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
34 States, the United States Postmaster General, the Secretary of State
35 of the state of Washington, the President of the United States
36 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member
37 of Congress from the State of Washington.

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