

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

Fall, 2016 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

DEFEND DOOR DELIVERY! ***STOP SEC. 202 (HR 5714)*** ***IN THE LAME DUCK***

When Congress reconvenes in the “lame duck” session, November 14th, door-to-door mail delivery may be on the chopping block. Despite the fact that a majority of the House of Representatives have indicated their support for delivery at the door, the Postal Reform Act of 2016 (HR 5714) – which contains a poison pill, Sec. 202, eliminating business and residential door delivery – came rolling out of committee, onto the House floor with a unanimous, bipartisan, do-pass recommendation.

How is it possible that a bipartisan majority (220) has signed onto H.Res. 28 -- “Expressing 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” – and yet a bipartisan, unanimous committee vote, by many who are co-sponsors of H.Res.28, recommends a bill which “Requires the ...conversion to centralized or cluster box delivery...”? Why is HR 5714, with 4 co-sponsors, on the floor of the House, when H.Res. 28, with 220 co-sponsors, is bottled up in committee?

WE’VE SEEN THIS

We’ve seen this before. In 2011-2012, the postal unions and allies had assembled a bipartisan majority behind a comprehensive postal bill which would have fixed postal finances, saved 6-day delivery, rural post offices and mail plants. That bill, HR 3591, the Postal Service Protection Act, languished for a year in committee and died. Why? Communities and postal workers were not loud enough, disruptive enough, powerful enough, to force a vote.

Fortunately, we can learn from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), who successfully beat back a Canada Post mandate to eliminate door delivery by paying postal workers lost-time to do community organizing. The CUPW trained and deployed postal workers to organize neighborhood canvassing, rallies, marches, hearings, pickets, occupations, media events, caravans and coalitions of those most impacted, including seniors, the disabled, veterans, and small business.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) voted at its’ August national convention to prioritize the fight to defend door-to-door delivery. A new Letter Carrier Political Organizer position is being launched after the November election, to lead this fight in critical districts. Contact your local NALC branch (or the national legislative office, 202-393-4695) to get involved.



Rally to Defend Door Delivery at National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) national convention (8/19/16)

ONE-THIRD OF DELIVERIES AT THE DOOR

One-third of deliveries in the United States (40 million) are at the door. Conversion of at-the-door delivery to curbside or cluster box delivery would eliminate tens of thousands of living wage, letter carrier jobs, which would have a severe impact on working class communities, especially among veterans and Black and other people’s of color, who are disproportionately represented among letter carriers. Many elderly and disabled customers, including many veterans, would be severely inconvenienced by being forced to walk from their homes in the rain, wind, snow, ice, dark and other dangerous conditions to cluster boxes. Curbside and cluster box mail receptacles are less secure than at-the-door and are more often targets for mail thieves. In curbside and cluster box receptacles, mail is more likely to accumulate day-to-day and more likely to be dropped on the ground, leading to litter problems.

At-the-door delivery facilitates quality service, such as individualized parcel and bundled mail drop & pick-up. At-the-door delivery facilitates residential customer contact, which protects the health and welfare of neighborhoods, especially looking-in on the frail and seniors. At-the-door delivery facilitates business customer contact, leading to “Customer Connect” revenue opportunities for the postal service. Door delivery makes “direct mail” more valuable and facilitates e-commerce.

STAPLES ON THE ROPES

The three-year battle to get Staples Office Supplies out of the postal business is paying off. Regular boycott rallies and leafleting at stores with knock-off post offices inside continue in the San Francisco Bay Area, Atlanta, Boston, New York and Pittsburgh. Staples stock continues to drop and stores are closing. Postal counters never expanded beyond the initial 82 pilot stores. To get involved, contact your American Postal Workers Union local or stopstaples.com

UTAH POLITICIAN BLAMES USPS FOR LOSS

(excerpted from the August 15, 2016 Salt Lake Tribune by Lee Davidson)

State Rep. Mel Brown — who lost his GOP primary by nine votes — asked the Utah Supreme Court on Monday to order the state to count 70 ballots that were never opened because officials say they were mailed too late.

Brown, R-Coalville, contends that U.S. Postal Service practices in rural counties delay postmarks by a day, which he argues unfairly disqualified many ballots. That happens because mail in many of those areas is sent to the Salt Lake Central Post Office, where it is postmarked the next day.

"Logically speaking, it is by far most probable that the 70 voters mailed their ballots in their respective counties of residence on the day before the election," as required by law, Brown's lawsuit asserts. House District 53 includes parts of Daggett, Duchesne, Morgan, Rich and Summit counties.

The lawsuit added that Brown talked with many of the 70 people involved who said they had indeed mailed their ballots on time.

Brown asked the high court to order that the ballots be counted and if they change the outcome, that he be declared the winner.



Rally to Defend Door Delivery in Portland, Oregon (9/29/16)

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

CPWUNITED.COM

SAVETHEPOSTOFFICE.COM

AGRANDALLIANCE.ORG

2ICPW.COM

APWU.ORG

NALC.ORG

NPMHU.ORG

NRLCA.ORG

DELAYED POSTAL DELIVERY MEANS WASTED MAIL VOTES

(excerpted from article in Sept. 29, 2016 Forbes by Steve Pociask)

US Postal Service (USPS) consumers are seeing declining service standards. They know their packages don't arrive on time. What they may not realize, however, is that this may also cost them their vote.

38 states require absentee ballots to be received by election day. However, USPS rules have changed and that first class letter mail, like absentee ballots which were once consistently delivered the next day in the same community, are now routed through distant regional processing centers. These centers are often in different states and hundreds of miles away.

If that isn't bad enough, despite setting more relaxed quality and delivery standards, a recent post office inspector general's report showed a 51% increase in mail processing delays. In short, USPS has lowered the bar for success and then dramatically missed the new lower bar.

It is unfortunate that these matters are not part of the Postal Reform discussion in Congress. House leaders, including Government Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) and the Committee's Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-Maryland), have regrettably ushered through the Postal Reform Bill of 2016, which side-steps too many systemic problems. (They should require) stringent mandates on the mail performance that consumers need and expect...

Without proper changes that will allow the agency to properly serve Americans, concerns will only grow for those planning on mailing their ballots come November. Its current systemic inadequacies are sure to result in the late delivery of thousands of ballots in each state ... leaving many votes uncounted.

Leaders in Congress and the Oversight Committee need to delineate and enforce better delivery standards and implement genuine reforms within any legislation effort...

Actual reform is critical – our democracy depends on it.

**CONTACT YOUR ELECTIONS OFFICIALS
ASK YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE TO MONITOR LATE BALLOTS,
ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS.
ASK THEM TO DIRECT COUNTY CLERKS:
CHECK THE POST-MARK OR BAR CODE...
WHEN WERE THE "LATE" BALLOTS MAILED?
WERE VOTERS GIVEN THE CORRECT INSTRUCTIONS ON WHEN
TO MAIL THEIR BALLOT?
ASK YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CONTACT CONGRESS,
DEMAND THAT POSTAL DELIVERY STANDARDS BE RESTORED
AND MAIL PROCESSING PLANTS RE-OPENED.**



ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:

Co-sponsor HR 784 & H.Res 54 for recovery of delivery standards, H.Res. 28, which supports retaining door delivery for businesses and residents, and oppose HR 5714, which eliminates door delivery.