

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

SUMMER 2019 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

SEATTLE SAVES CENTRAL POST OFFICE

(the following is an excerpt of a letter from Seattle City Council member Kshama Sawant)

Dear friends,

I'm delighted to report that we received word on Monday (June 10) from the US Postal Service that they have agreed to establish a new Central District Post Office at 23rd and Union! It'll be just across the street from the former Post Office...

Congratulations to the 662 community members who signed our Council Office petition - retirees, working people from all our communities, including African American, Asian, and LGBTQ people, postal workers, union members, young people, and small business owners - you all said, bring back our Central District Post Office!

Thanks also to the dozens of you who wrote letters to the Postal Service, and the 80+ people who attended the May 2 meeting my office organized at Garfield Community Center with US Postal Service officials.

Together, we made our voices heard loud and clear: Central District residents demand a new Post Office. Thank you to the US Postal Service for responding to our call! And thank you to American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Seattle chapter for their advocacy!

"The Post Office returning to the Central District is great, especially for the community elders - they can send and gather mail and purchase money orders and stamps," noted Georgio Brown, a filmmaker and resident of the new Liberty Bank Building apartments. "Not everyone is mailing via the internet, the post office provides a real neighborhood feel and I am happy it's coming back."

Now with a location selected, the Postal Service needs to negotiate a lease and renovate the space before they can re-open. It will likely take a few months - my Council Office will keep an eye on things to make sure there are no unnecessary delays and that the new Post Office is opened as soon as possible

My office will also make sure to follow up the community's call for the Postal Service to set up drop boxes and a mobile post office ...

The Africantown Seattle Podcast, #TheCheckIn, points out, as many of you have done, that the loss of our Post Office was another alarming sign of the gentrification of our historically people of color working-class community. The community that needs the Post Office is the same one that is struggling to hold on to affordable housing.

Working-class homeowners and renters both bear the brunt of the deeply regressive taxation, and pay for the profits of the real estate elite by either being rent-burdened or economically evicted out of the city, and more often now, into homelessness.

Our success here in winning back a new Post Office is an important step in the right direction in the fight against gentrification. Let's continue building a powerful movement for rent control and social housing.

In solidarity,
Kshama Sawant



West Linn, OR rally to save the local post office on Postal Heritage Day (July 26)

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

CPWUNITED.COM

SAVETHEPOSTOFFICE.COM

AGRANDALLIANCE.ORG

APWU.ORG

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POSTAL WORKERS HOST RALLY

West Linn Tidings, Holly Bartholomew

Members of Communities and Postal Workers United and American Postal Workers Union want their voices — and the voices of community members — heard at a rally at noon Friday, July 26 at the West Linn Post Office.

The unions are interested in gathering with concerned citizens to do what they can to keep a post office in West Linn.

"The idea is to say we need a post office in West Linn that's convenient and accessible," said Jamie Partridge, a retired letter carrier who is helping organize the event.

The purpose of the rally, which will be held on Postal Heritage Day, is to raise awareness to the threat of West Linn's post office, as well as put pressure on the United States Postal Service (USPS) to better serve the people.

"I'm concerned about what's happening with the post office generally but particularly this post office because of threats and closures over the last few years and the American people deserve better," Partridge said.

Partridge said his idea for the rally is not to say whether or not the post office needs to stay at its spot in the West Linn Central Village, but rather to highlight the significance of having a post office in the community...

ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO Support H.Res. 33 against postal privatization, H.Res. 23 protecting door delivery, H.Res 54 to preserve 6-day delivery, and H.Res 60 to restore service standards. All have achieved majority sponsorship in past sessions but never came to a vote.

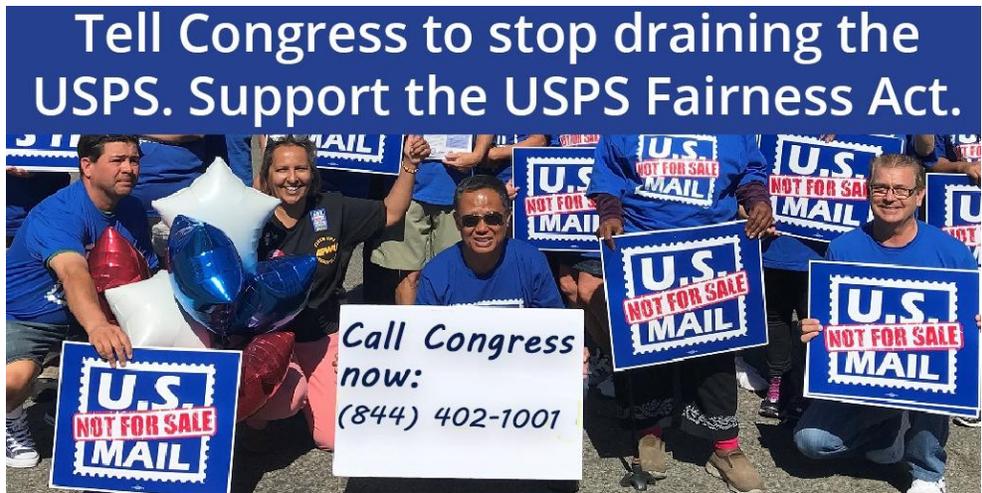
BURCHETT BILL: NO CLUSTER MAILBOX REQUIREMENT IN NEW NEIGHBORHOODS WITHOUT LOCAL VOTE

Tyler Whetstone, Knoxville News Sentinel

The U.S Postal Service wants to impose a longer walk to the mailbox on residents of new neighborhoods, requiring "cluster" boxes in a single location, similar to those in apartment complexes.

In the wake of pushback from developers, realtors and homebuyers, U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett, R-TN, wants to keep mailboxes at the end of individual driveways of single-family homes.

Last month he filed the Easy Access to Mail Act, HR 2158, which would require the USPS to get permission from the local legislative body, city councils or county commissions, to place cluster mailboxes in communities and would prohibit the USPS from retroactively changing a neighborhood that doesn't already have clustered mailboxes.



The burdensome prefunding of retirement healthcare benefits mandate is the cause of 92% of the United States Postal Service's net financial losses since 2007. H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act, fully repeals the prefunding mandate, and return to a pay-as-you-go method of funding retirement healthcare. (photo: APWU)

DEVELOPERS: IT'S AN INCONVENIENCE

Developers have pushed back on the policy, saying it would add to their costs and make new neighborhoods less attractive to buyers.

In November, Smithbilt Homes' Josh Sanderson told the News Sentinel the cost of building the cluster box in subdivisions is offset somewhat by not having to install individual mailboxes. The bigger expense, he said, is building handicapped-accessible sidewalks to the box, extra landscaping and a crosswalk. If he added a roof, that would probably be an extra \$1,300 to \$1,500. There's an added maintenance cost too, he said.

But the big objection is that a single, centralized box is less convenient for residents, Sanderson said. Some will have quite a walk from the far end of larger developments, and drivers may block traffic while stopping for mail, he said.



Portland, OR on National Day of Action — Tax Day...No taxes needed! Not for Sale!

POST OFFICE STANDS BY ITS POLICY

For now, though, the post office is standing firm.

"The Postal Service position on centralized delivery remains unchanged. We are reviewing the proposed legislation and have no comment on the bill at this time," Susan Wright, USPS spokesperson for Tennessee, wrote in an emailed statement.

Burchett said having hilly terrain in some neighborhoods and poor or nonexistent sidewalks in others makes it inconvenient, or even impossible in some cases, for people to travel beyond their mailbox to get their mail.

"They just need to quit it," he said. "They need to abandon it. It (disproportionately impacts) the elderly, disabled and minorities. I just don't see the need of it."

Cluster boxes would let postal workers deliver to a single point instead of house to house, saving time and personnel hours for the agency, which operated at a \$1.5 billion net loss for the third quarter of 2018. The Postal Service doesn't get tax money for operations; it has to be self-supporting by selling goods and services. Existence of a postal service is mandated by the U.S. Constitution.

Some developers are resisting the demand, and some planning agencies say they can't en-

force a federal policy anyway. But the Postal Service says it will deliver only to spots approved in advance by local postal officials, so its employees may refuse to bring mail to unsanctioned locations in the future.

Coming soon...



...don't let this happen
to your neighborhood

Retired Letter Carriers of Lane County
want you to know you have the right to say "no"
to the Postal Service request
that you change
your mode of mail delivery
to a cluster box unit.

Once you change
you cannot go back
to door delivery.



Don't let this happen. Know your rights.

The above ad appeared recently in the Eugene Weekly

TRYING TO BE FISCALLY SOUND

The Postal Service' loss of \$1.5 billion in the first quarter of 2019 means finding efficiencies is essential.

A USPS publication from October 2017 on "Delivery Growth Management" says the Postal Service delivers to more than 157 million residential and business addresses daily, and adds nearly 1 million new delivery points every year. The Postal Service "prefers" new houses to have the most efficient delivery method, including the type and location of mailboxes, the USPS website says. Developers and builders "should plan" for cluster boxes, the website says.

It has a responsibility to provide mail delivery to all parts of the country "in a fiscally responsible manner," Wright said last fall. With the number of addresses constantly increasing, centralized mailboxes are the most efficient way to deliver, she said.

On Thursday, Wright said USPS policy hasn't changed.

For what it's worth, Burchett says he's pro-USPS, adding that his grandfather was a letter carrier during the Great Depression. He said mail carriers don't like cluster boxes either. "Postmen and post ladies are such a part of our communities," he said. "A lot of people, that's the only interaction (they) have with the outside world. They're more than people just dropping off a letter."