

Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

SUMMER 2024 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - www.cpwunited.com

CONGRESS BEGINS TO MOVE POSTAL LEGISLATION TO PAUSE CONSOLIDATIONS

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy recently “paused” consolidations of mail processing and distribution until January 1, 2025 and pledged to consult with Congress, the Postal Regulatory Commission, and proceed with his Ten-Year “Delivering for America” (DFA) plan at a slower pace.

This is good news and a result of pressure from postal workers, postal customers, and elected officials, at public and Congressional hearings, press conferences, protest rallies, letters and calls. We must keep the heat on the PMG until he backs off his misguided “modernizations” that are delaying mail and eliminating jobs.

Let's ask our U.S. Congress persons and Senators to co-sponsor legislation that would pause and adjust the DFA until it reliably maintains and improves service and postal jobs. Here are seven (!) different ... only slightly different... bills introduced in the last couple months in response to mail delay and job loss caused by consolidations of Processing and Distribution Centers across the country. The first two listed (below) have the most co-sponsors.

To write your Senators & Congressperson, use this convenient link...

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stop-mail-delay-job-loss-pause-postal-consolidations>



HR 8730 & S 4464 (11 cosponsors) – **Postal Processing Protection Act** - “To require the United States Postal Service to apply certain requirements when closing a processing, shipping, delivery, or other facility supporting a post office, and for other purposes”. Mandates community input and allows appeal to Postal Regulatory Commission of any closure/consolidation of sorting, distribution or processing facility.

HR 8040 (11 cosponsors) - the **Protect Postal Performance Act**, “To limit the closure or consolidation of any United States Postal Service processing and distribution center in Postal Service regions that have failed to meet certain delivery standards, and for other purposes”

HR 8045 & S 4160 (4 cosponsors)– **Postal Operations Stay Timely And Local Act** – “To prohibit the closure, consolidation, or degradation of a mail processing and distribution center, if it would result in no such centers being located in that state or would negatively impact mail delivery”



If you
DON'T See Something,
Say Something!
Mail delay? Not okay!
Tell your story!

Tell your Senators and Congressperson –
(202) 224-3121

Tell the USPS Office of the Inspector General –
www.uspsaig.gov/hotline

Write the Postal Regulatory Commission --
<https://www.prc.gov/contact>

Call your local tv station. Write a letter-to-the-editor

Share your story with the “We Won’t Be Silenced” campaign –
Wewontbesilenced2024@gmail.com

S 4453 & HR 8589 (0 cosponsors) A bill to require the United States Postal Service to implement recommendations from the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service for decreasing instances of delayed mail and improving staffing and training, and for other purposes.

HR 8000 (1 cosponsor) - Timely **Mail Delivery and Postal Services Protection Act** - Requires the Postal Service to wait for an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission prior to changes in its mail processing operations, including consolidations. Eliminates funding for Mail Processing Facilities Review, freezing consolidations until PRC review.

S 4254 (0 cosponsors)– **Protecting Access to Rural Carriers for Every Location Act**. No consolidations that cross state lines, requires review of geography (eg. mountains) and public approval

HR 8795 & S 4618 (0 cosponsors) “To limit the closure or consolidation of any United States Postal Service processing and distribution center if the United States Postal Service has failed to meet certain conditions, and for other purposes.”

CONTACT YOUR STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ask them to sue the USPS to pause all consolidations of mail processing, distribution, delivery and trucking because the consolidations cause mail delays that threaten vote-by-mail and discriminate against rural communities. The AGs have done it before. On August 18, 2020, a suit by thirteen Attorney's General, was critical in stopping Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's degradation of postal service in the run-up to the 2020 election.

See the list and the suit here: <https://tinyurl.com/AttysGeneral>

WITH MASS ORGANIZING AND DIRECT ACTION, BUFFALO STOPS PLANT CONSOLIDATION, SAVES JOBS AND SERVICE

This from Buffalo local National Association of Letter Carriers president, David Grosskopf: “Branch 3 put on one of the best examples of organizing its membership, its sister unions, government officials at every level and the public achieving the desired outcome of stopping the PMG’s plan ever. We are the only branch in the nation to stop a consolidation with the effective use of public picketing and packing a public meeting with multiple stakeholders espousing multiple talking points. This is what rank and file unionism looks like and what it can accomplish when we all stand together, united in one goal.”

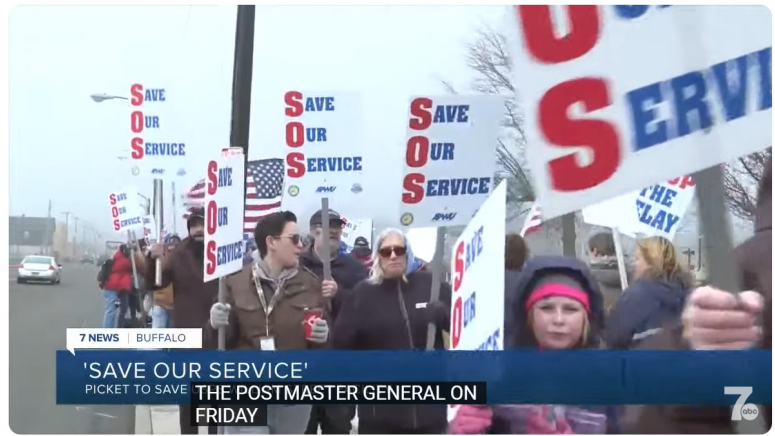
With an unusual understanding of the power of a broad and deep resistance coalition, the leadership of Buffalo’s American Postal Workers Union and NALC united their members and reached out to the public, elected officials, and the media with angry agitational messages.

First they expressed outrage at the time and venue set by the USPS for the required public hearing on the consolidation: Early January, 3pm in a small library room with no free parking. “Union Uncovers Shameful USPS Plan to Silence the Public Regarding the Movement of Processing Buffalo Mail to Rochester” was the message from APWU President Frank Resetarits. “Outrageous Public Meeting Set” was the call to officials and the media, with a demand that the time and place be moved.

Resetarits and Grosskopf knew that they could turn out hundreds of residents, business owners and government officials. They had done it in 2012 when the same plant was threatened with closure. At that time, the public hearing was held at 7pm, at a large venue with plenty of free parking space that attracted close to a thousand residential customers and major mailers. The USPS backed down in 2013.

The union leaders not only blasted out their message among their ranks and on social and local broadcast media, they also called for an informational picket. Scores of residents, postal workers and town officials, including most of the City Common Council showed up (see photo above). Union members and postal customers were urged to barrage the USPS with complaints, as well as urge local, state and Congressional representatives to weigh in. New York Senator Chuck Schumer, the Senate majority leader, felt the heat and intervened directly with the Postmaster General.

Within a month, the USPS backed down. Jobs and service were saved. As President Grosskopf wrote in his union newsletter: “You did it, Buffalo, you did it!”



'This is not what Western New York wants': Picket to save USPS facility on William Street in Buffalo 2/24/24

HEAT DANGER UNABATED

(excerpt from CBS News, 6/25/24)

The widow of a Dallas postal worker who died of a heat-related illness said that the U.S. Postal Service is not doing enough to keep workers safe.

Eugene Gates Jr. collapsed last year while delivering mail on a day when the heat index reached 113 degrees. A year later, his widow worries that it will happen again if something doesn't change...

OSHA fined the U.S. Postal Service more than \$15,000 for not protecting Gates from the heat. The citation lists recommended measures, including earlier start times and a heat acclimatization plan. But Kimetra Lewis with the National Association of Letter Carriers said there has been no systemic change...

OSHA HEAT STANDARD HEADS TO WHITE HOUSE FOR REVIEW

(Donna Pryor, *Husch Blackwell Law* 6/24/24)

OSHA has been working on a proposed standard for indoor and outdoor heat illness since 2021. This month the proposed standard has been sent to the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for review.

While the language of the proposed standard has not been released, the rule is expected to include temperatures that trigger requirements under the rule such as mandatory rest breaks. OSHA has previously stated the rules to protect workers from heat illness would be followed after the heat index reaches 80 degrees Fahrenheit...

OSHA has been issuing citations for heat exposure under the General Duty Clause of the OSH Act with limited success. The general duty clause provides: “Each employer ... shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.” In *Secretary of Labor v. United States Postal Service*, the Occupational Health and Safety Review Commission agreed that OSHA established the heat related condition posed a hazard, but vacated four of the five citations issued because OSHA failed to establish a feasible and effective means of abatement.

DESPITE THE SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY WE WON'T BE SILENCED!

Sign the petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/wont-be-silenced-postal-governors-must-allow-public-testimony>



POSTAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Thurs. Aug. 8, 1pm ET, USPS HQ in DC
Rally outside Noon, rally inside
Pause Consolidations, Restore Jobs and Service !

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!

cpwunited.com agralliance.org
apwu.org nalc.org npmhu.org nrca.org
savethepostoffice.com bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService