

Community and Postal Workers United, cpwunited.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Flying squads of postal pickets on wheels hit the bricks on Labor Day

Embattled postal truckers protest privatization

The working-class is disenchanted with the status quo

Community and Postal Workers to Protest Postal Privatization

When: September 2, 2013 from 10 am till 1 pm.

Where: Santa Ana Post Office, 2201 N Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92711

The postal service is considering subcontracting the highway movement of mail to the private sector in approximately 162 Postal Vehicle Services sites nationwide, according to the USPS.

In April 2013 USPS sent the postal unions a notice of intent to subcontract their Pacific Area Postal Vehicle Service, citing cost comparisons. This, despite the fact that they failed in a previous attempt to subcontract PVS in California on an environmental pretext. "The postal service is not broke. The financial crisis is phony. Thanks to Congressman Darrell Issa (California), the USPS is now destroying good family wage jobs," said Kevin Cole, a local postal union officer. According to postal unions, Issa pushed the USPS to study privatization of postal trucking.

Current plans to close half the distribution plants and thousands of post offices, eliminate six-day and door-to-door delivery, and abolish 200,000 jobs will send the postal service into a death spiral. To justify these cutbacks, the Postal Service cites its financial crisis. Since 2006 the USPS has been forced to spend nearly 10 percent of its budget prefunding retiree health benefits 75 years in advance. No other U.S. agency or private business faces such a crushing financial burden. Without the unjust Congressional requirement, the USPS would have been profitable. H,R, 630 and S 316 would fix postal finances and protect the service.

Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Darrell Issa recently introduced a bill that would punish workers, deprive customers of vital services, privatize postal services and harm postal finances. It would force USPS to make \$3 billion worth of cuts in post offices and mail processing facilities within two years. Secondly it would prohibit postal unions and management from negotiating restrictions in layoffs. Finally it would empower a board to reject negotiated labor contracts if they were deemed too costly. Issa's bill is an excuse to sell public assets to private interests under the guise of a financial crisis.