



NRLCA FACT SHEET

National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
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Preserving 6-Day Mail Delivery

In February 2013 the Postmaster General of the U.S. Postal Service attempted to implement a plan that would eliminate Saturday mail delivery. Although the Postmaster General argued these cuts would save money, the detrimental effect it would have on customers who use the USPS would be much worse. In our view, this service cut would reduce the value of the mail and further intensify the Postal Service's problems by pushing much-needed business mail out the door and lead to the demise of the U.S. Postal Service.

The NRLCA firmly believes any savings occasioned by reducing delivery days will be offset by the lost revenue that will occur when consumers and businesses flock to USPS competitors. A confidential USPS-commissioned survey found that service cuts (i.e., elimination of Saturday mail delivery, service standard changes, and mail processing network changes combined) resulting in a 7.7% reduction in mail volume would result in a \$5.2 billion revenue loss—in the first year alone.

The NRLCA believes the Postmaster General grossly underestimated the number of jobs that would be lost with the elimination of Saturday delivery. As many as 50,000 rural carriers would lose their jobs, including many jobs held by veterans, who make up approximately 21% of the workforce.

Saturday mail delivery is an important communication and marketing tool used by millions of citizens and mailers across the country, especially in rural areas. The NRLCA believes the USPS did not adequately consider the effect of eliminating Saturday mail delivery in rural and remote areas. The elimination of Saturday mail delivery would place financial hardships on the tens of millions of rural Americans who own small businesses. In addition, a large number of elderly and disadvantaged constituents live in rural America. Their livelihoods and quality of life depend on receiving mail six days a week.

Cutting six-day delivery is not a viable plan for the future. Eliminating Saturday mail delivery will provide customers with fewer services and lower quality that will result in more customers seeking other options. Rural Americans, businesses, senior citizens, and veterans will be hurt the most by ending Saturday mail delivery. Reducing delivery from six to five days goes against the principle of the very foundation of the Postal Service: "To give universal service to the American people."

NRLCA Position

NRLCA believes it is essential for Congress to continue to support 6-day mail delivery to ensure universal service for American businesses and households.

Contact Paul Swartz at pswartz@nrlca.org if you have any questions or would like more information on preserving 6-day mail delivery.