



NRLCA FACT SHEET

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Preserving 6-Day Mail Delivery

Delivering mail six days a week remains a critical competitive advantage for the USPS, especially in rural areas where small businesses and livelihoods are dependent on 6-day mail delivery. Recently, the Administration's FY2019 budget proposed allowing the Postal Service to reduce delivery frequency by eliminating Saturday mail delivery. Although the argument is 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 achieved 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.

Eliminating 6-day mail delivery would cut as many as 50,000 rural letter carrier jobs, including many jobs held by veterans, who make up approximately 23% 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 where the Postal Service delivers the last mile. 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. If the USPS eliminates Saturday mail delivery, customers will be left with either having to pay a higher price or pay a surcharge to have an alternative delivery service on Saturdays.

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. Reducing the number of USPS delivery days ignores the needs of customers as well as a booming e-commerce market. This past fiscal year the Postal Service earned 15.9% more in parcel revenue than the previous year. This is nearly a 45% increase for the past three years. 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. Please support H.Res.15 to ensure 6-day mail delivery in America's communities.

Contact Paul Swartz at pswartz@nrlca.org if you have any questions or would like more information.