



## WARLCA Legislative Update

September / October 2018

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WARLCA Legislative Director

Hello again WARLCA members. The time to act is now. The Administration's efforts to push privatization of the Postal Service is a threat which you can no longer ignore. Your jobs, wages, benefits and right to union representation are all under attack from the White House under the guise of managing expenses for profitability. You and your families are important to us. Please know that the NRLCA needs each individual rural carrier to do what they can to help ensure the road to privatization reaches a dead-end. The American public deserves the best mail service in the world, and you deliver it daily. Let us not allow that to change.

### Administration Proposes to Privatize the Postal Service

On June 21, 2018, the Administration released a federal government Reform Plan and Reorganization Recommendations. Included in the 127-page government overhaul blueprint is the proposal to privatize the United States Postal Service. The Administration states their "proposal would restructure the United States Postal System to return it to a sustainable business model or prepare it for future conversion from a Government Agency into a privately-held corporation."

The privatization proposal recommends significant cuts to service, employee benefits, and labor that would help a privately-held Postal Service better manage expenses; "A private postal operator that delivers mail fewer days per week and to more central locations (not door delivery) would operate at substantially lower costs." It goes on to say: "Freeing USPS to more fully negotiate pay and benefits rather than prescribing participation in costly Federal personnel benefits programs and allowing it to follow private sector practices in compensation and labor relations, could further reduce costs."

To be perfectly clear, what the Administration proposes is to reduce service, cut employee pay and benefits, and eliminate the union representation and negotiation protections afforded federal employees. They would do this by converting the Postal Service from a governmental agency Constitutionally mandated to provide universal service into a privately held organization with one goal: deliver mail at a profit, without the public protections of current congressional mandates.

View the Reform Plan and Reorganization Recommendations here (see pages 68-70): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Government-Reform-and-Reorg-Plan.pdf>

### Presidential Postal Service Task Force

On April 12, President Trump signed an Executive Order creating a Postal Task Force to review the sustainability and viability of the Postal Service and make legislative recommendations within a 120-day window. When the NRLCA met with members of the Task Force,

the idea of privatization never came up. The Task Force's report was delivered to the White House on August 10. After receiving the report briefing and having directed the task force to make its recommendations actionable, either through legislation or regulation, the President then decided not to start implementation or to make the findings public until after voters elect a new Congress in November. With the recent release of the Administration's government Reform Plan, many USPS stakeholders have strong expectations that the task force recommendations may simply mirror the privatization proposals already put forth by the White House.

The NRLCA fully opposes privatizing the Postal Service and will continue to work with all members of Congress to pass meaningful postal reform legislation, and make sure this privatization proposal to dismantle an American institution fails.

**Please contact your members of Congress NOW and ask them to oppose privatization of the US Postal Service.**

On a positive note, we do have many friends in Congress providing support for legislation opposing privatization and other issues affecting rural craft members. You can help by contacting your legislators now and letting your voice be heard.

### H.Res. 993: Ensure the USPS ... is not subject to privatization

*Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.* Currently H.Res. 993 has 239 bi-partisan Cosponsors, including eight Representatives from Washington State.

**If your Representative is not a Cosponsor of H.Res. 993, please contact them NOW and ask them to support and become a Cosponsor of H.Res. 993: Ensure the USPS ... is not subject to privatization.**

#### Current Washington Representatives Cosponsoring H.Res 993

Rep. Suzan DelBene (1<sup>st</sup> Dist – D)    Rep. Rick Larsen (2<sup>nd</sup> Dist – D)  
Rep. Jaimie Herrera Beutler (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist – R)  
Rep. Dan Newhouse (4<sup>th</sup> Dist – R)  
Rep. Derek Kilmer (6<sup>th</sup> Dist – D)    Rep. Pramilia Jayapal (7<sup>th</sup> Dist – D)  
Rep. Adam Smith (9<sup>th</sup> Dist – D)    Rep. Denny Heck (10<sup>th</sup> Dist – D)

#### Current WA Representatives NOT Cosponsors of H.Res 993

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (5<sup>th</sup> Dist – R)    ph #: (509) 353-2374  
<https://mcmorris.house.gov/>  
Rep. David Reichert (8<sup>th</sup> Dist – R)    ph #: (425) 677-7414  
<https://reichert.house.gov/>

Use this link to find your Congressional Representative:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

### S.Res. 633: Ensure the USPS ... is not subject to privatization

*A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.* Currently S.Res. 633 has 47 bi-partisan Cosponsors, including both Washington Senators.

**Please contact your WA Senators and thank them for supporting rural carriers and the USPS as Cosponsors of S.Res. 633: Ensure the USPS ... is not subject to privatization.**

Senator Maria Cantwell (D)    ph #: (206) 220-6400  
<https://cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email>  
Senator Patty Murray (D)    ph #: (206) 553-5545  
<https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

See the July WARLCA Legislative update for other rural issues before congress