

Help save your Postal Service!

Established in 1775, the Postal Service has faithfully served the American public for over 239 years. Today, that record of service in cities, towns and to every household in our great country is in jeopardy, as the United States Postal Service (USPS) is in the midst of a critical financial crisis.

The USPS financial crisis is the result of a provision of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 that requires the Postal Service to pre-fund healthcare benefits of future retirees, including those of workers who have not even been hired yet – a burden no other government agency or private company bears. The mandate requires the USPS to fund a 75-year liability over a 10-year period and costs the USPS more than \$5.5 billion per year.

The USPS has recorded losses of \$20 billion over the past four years, though it would have made a profit over this period (despite the recession) if not for the artificial burden of pre-funding future retiree health benefits.

Furthermore, according to two independent actuarial studies, the USPS has overfunded its pension obligations by \$50 billion to \$75 billion.

No taxpayer money is used to operate the Postal Service. It is funded solely on monies received from stamps and postage. The USPS stands alone in offering affordable and accessible, universal service to 150 million homes and thousands of communities and businesses six days a week. It is at the heart of a \$1.3 trillion mailing industry that employs over 9 million workers.

Congress must address the cause of the Postal Service's financial crisis so that postal workers can continue to serve the American people and the USPS can continue to act as an important engine for the U.S. economy.

In this regard, House Resolution 1351 would help restore financial stability to the Postal Service without slashing service to the public. It would allow the USPS to use the billions of dollars in pension overpayments to meet its financial obligations. Currently, H.R. 1351 has 185 cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. If this legislation is not enacted, service to the public will be cut and thousands of jobs will be lost.

We urge you to contact Minnesota's Second District Congressman John Kline (Telephone: 952-808-1213), Third District Congressman Erik Paulsen (Telephone: 952-405-8510), Sixth District Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann (Telephone: 651-731-5400), Eighth District Congressman Chip Cravaack (Telephone: 651-237-8220) and Wisconsin's Seventh District Congressman Sean Duffy (Telephone: 715-298-9344) and ask them to help restore financial stability to the USPS by cosponsoring H.R. 1351.



American Postal Workers Union, 7019 Area Local