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Support Mail Network Security!

Dear Colleague:

The United States Postal Service, which serves over 141 million homes and businesses six days a week, has been increasingly outsourcing many of its core functions, including mail processing and mail handling, to private entities. Notably, in November of last year, the Postal Service outsourced the processing of military parcel mail headed to Iraq and Afghanistan, work previously performed by career postal employees in New Jersey.

While the contracting out of such basic postal service functions clearly impacts the allocation of work, this alarming trend bears much broader implications in terms of compromising the security of the U.S. mail network. Privately-contracted employees possess significantly less training and experience than career postal employees and are not subject to the same hiring standards and procedures used by the Postal Service. More specifically, they do not possess the training or experience necessary to safeguard the mail, fellow employees, and the public against biohazards, mailed explosives, and other dangers that may impact the U.S. mail network.

For this reason, it is imperative that the Postal Service consider all available options before deciding to subcontract core postal functions. Accordingly, I recently introduced H.R. 4236, the ***Mail Network Protection Act of 2007***, legislation that would prohibit the Postal Service from entering into certain contracts providing for mail processing, mail handling, or surface transportation of mail unless it first notifies and if requested, bargains with labor representatives of postal employees that would be impacted by the decision. Specifically, this bill would apply to contracts for mail processing, mail handling, or surface transportation that, for any 12-month period, would 1) involve the equivalent of 50 or more workyears of work that would otherwise be performed by career postal employees within a recognized bargaining unit or 2) cost the Postal Service \$5 million or more. This legislation would not apply to contracts for mail delivery.

This legislation is supported by the *American Postal Workers Union & the National Postal Mail Handlers Union*.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Bruce Fernandez in my office at 5-8273 or Bruce.Fernandez@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



STEPHEN F. LYNCH
Member of Congress (MA-09)