



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

May 21, 2010

William Burrus
President
(202) 842-4246

David Williams, Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn Street, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22209

National Executive Board

William Burrus
President

Cliff Guffey
Executive Vice President

Elizabeth "Liz" Powell
Secretary-Treasurer

Greg Bell
Director, Industrial Relations

James "Jim" McCarthy
Director, Clerk Division

Steven G. Raymer
Director, Maintenance Division

Robert C. "Bob" Pritchard
Director, MVS Division

Bill Manley
Director, Support Services Division

Sharyn M. Stone
Coordinator, Central Region

Mike Gallagher
Coordinator, Eastern Region

John H. Dirzius
Coordinator, Northeast Region

William E. "Bill" Sullivan
Coordinator, Southern Region

Omar M. Gonzalez
Coordinator, Western Region

Dear Mr. Williams:

I note the May 21, 2010, announcement that the USPS Office of Inspector General will conduct an audit of postage workshare discounts.

As you are aware, the American Postal Workers Union has a long history of denouncing excessive discounts and pointing out that they fail to comply with federal law. We have engaged in numerous discussions of this subject with Congress, postal management, and your office.

Therefore, I was extremely disappointed that your announcement of the audit, which outlined plans to interview a range of "stakeholders," excluded postal unions from the consultative process.

I do not believe this was an oversight, since it followed so closely the May 12, 2010, House Subcommittee hearings on this subject, during which the union criticized postal management and your office for turning a blind eye to the abuses. The exclusion of the unions is magnified by your announced intent to interview mailers' representatives - who are the beneficiaries of the excessive discounts.

Despite my disappointment, I commend your office for undertaking this study. Given the loss of billions of dollars annually, this subject should have been reviewed long ago. "Universal service at uniform rates" is the linchpin of the American mail system, so the widespread, persistent deviation from this standard deserves your attention and demands correction.

David Williams
May 21, 2010 – Page Two

I would be pleased to add my voice to your inquiries. However, whether or not our views are considered as part of your audit, we ask that you analyze the relative efficiencies of decentralized mail processing and transportation systems – which are encouraged by workshare discounts – as well as their impact on the USPS network, which is required to provide universal service for non-discounted mail.

I look forward to reviewing the final report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Burrus". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

William Burrus
President

cc: U.S. Rep. Stephen F. Lynch
Postal Regulatory Commission

WB:SD/aw