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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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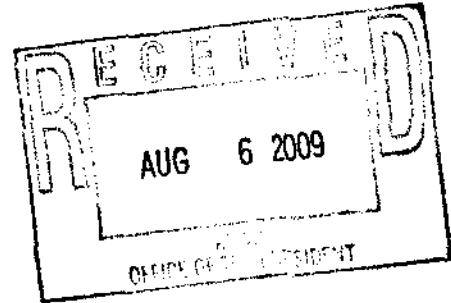
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August 4, 2009

Mr. William Burrus
President
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
1300 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Mr. Burrus:

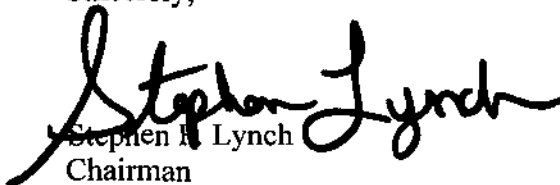
As a follow up to testimony you provided before the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, I am forwarding to you the following questions for the record and information requests for the Subcommittee from the July 30, 2009 oversight hearing.

In responding to the following inquiries, I ask that you please provide responses to the Subcommittee's questions within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter.

1. Given the financial problems facing the Postal Service and the declining volume of mail, what viable preferred alternatives to consolidations and closures exist?
2. USPS is limited in its ability to lay off postal workers. In light of this restriction, how should the USPS go about reducing its operating costs when mail volumes and revenues fall?
3. USPS pays a higher percentage of employee health benefit premiums than other federal agencies (80 percent versus 72 percent, respectively). In addition, USPS pays 100 percent of employee life insurance premiums, while other federal agencies pay about 33 percent. In light of the financial condition of the Postal Service, do you expect to retain these benefits going into the next round of collective bargaining? Please explain.
4. What does your organization think about GAO's recommendation for the Postal Service to develop and implement a broad restructuring plan? In your view, does the Postal Service need to restructure to achieve financial viability?
5. Are you satisfied with the notification, public comment and appeals process for station and branch consolidations? What are your concerns and how might your members be affected?

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret McDavid at (202) 225-5417 or margaret.mcdavid@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen H. Lynch

Chairman

Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service,
and the District of Columbia