



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

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Mark Dimondstein
President

December 10, 2013

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The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid and
Minority Leader McConnell:

More than 200,000 members of the American Postal Workers Union are deeply troubled by media reports that budget negotiators may propose measures that would cut the take-home pay of postal and federal workers.

Proposals to increase the pension contributions of postal and federal employees and/or change the retirement formula – without increasing benefits – amount to wage cuts, pure and simple. Furthermore, it is important to note that postal workers' pensions are fully funded.

These outrageous proposals are just the most recent examples of the hypocrisy of those who refuse to compel corporations and wealthy individuals to pay their fair share but are willing to solve the nation's deficit on the backs of working people – America's postal and federal employees.

We urge you to oppose any such budget bill and ask that you encourage all members of your caucus to do the same.

We also are deeply concerned by reports that budget conferees are considering proposals that would weaken the U.S. Postal Service, eliminate tens of thousands of

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jobs, and derail the agency's fledgling recovery.

Eliminating Saturday mail delivery and other cutbacks would reduce service to individual postal customers and major mailers, drive away business, and impede the Postal Service's recovery.

As you know, the Postal Service receives no taxpayer money, does not add to the deficit, and has recently shown an operating surplus. Congress can best support the USPS by eliminating the mandate in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 that requires the USPS to pre-fund healthcare benefits for future retirees – a burden no other government agency or private company bears. To strengthen the USPS, Congress also must protect service standards and allow the USPS to offer new services that will create new sources of revenue.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dimondstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Mark Dimondstein
President

MD/lbb(sd)
opeiu#2, afl-cio