



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2011

Contact: Dave Partenheimer
(O) 202-268-2599
(C) 202-262-3275
David.A.Partenheimer@usps.gov
usps.com/news

Statement: USPS Exploring Additional Legislative Proposals

While the Postal Service remains the cornerstone of a \$1 trillion industry and will continue to be vital to the U.S. economy, the Postal Service will be insolvent next month due to significant declines in First-Class Mail volume, the effects of a Congressional mandate to prefund retiree health benefits and increases in network costs, wages and benefits.

The Postal Service has taken unprecedented steps over the past decade to reduce costs in areas within its control, including cost reductions totaling \$12 billion in the past four fiscal years. To return to financial stability, the Postal Service seeks legislative changes to allow for network and workforce adjustments. Legislative action is needed to do the following:

- Allow the Postal Service to establish its own health benefits program
- Allow the Postal Service to administer its own retirement system
- Give the Postal Service the ability to adjust the size of its workforce to match operational needs and the changing marketplace.

These proposals require changes in current law before they can be implemented. Two Postal Service white papers provide details on these options:

http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2011/pr11_wp_workforce_0812.pdf

http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2011/pr11_wp_hbretirees_0812.pdf

The new legislative proposals are in addition to ones previously identified, including:

- Eliminate Congressionally mandated retiree health benefit pre-payments
- Enable the Postal Service to access Federal Employees Retirement System overpayments
- Give the Postal Service the authority to determine the frequency of mail delivery.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

We're everywhere so you can be anywhere: uspseverywhere.com

###

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 150 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With 32,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, usps.com, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$67 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 29th in the 2010 Fortune 500. Black Enterprise and Hispanic Business magazines ranked the Postal Service as a leader in workforce diversity. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency six consecutive years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.