



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

September 20, 2005

William Burrus
President
(202) 842-4246

Honorable Susan M. Collins
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Collins:

I am writing on behalf of postal workers represented by the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO (the APWU) to address issues related to postal reform legislation that have been raised by the United States Postal Service. The APWU is appreciative of the strong leadership, insight, and determination you have brought to the difficult task of amending the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. We are deeply grateful to you for standing by the principle of free collective bargaining and for resisting the efforts to institutionalize worksharing that exceeds the postal cost avoided.

We are writing now to advise you that we share several of the concerns expressed by the Board of Governors' letter dated September 13, 2005. We have consistently maintained that the legislation in both houses of Congress must leave the Governors with the authority they will need to oversee the business of the Postal Service. While we strongly disagree with the USPS recommendation to repeal Section 1005(f) of Title 39, we agree with the Governors that despite all the hard work, if the final legislation does not provide "real flexibility and authority, the Postal Service would be better positioned to build on recent progress in generating revenue and controlling costs under current law."

We very much appreciate your leadership on postal reform legislation and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely yours,


William Burrus
President

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