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Dear Editor:

It is not true that the government subsidizes the U.S. Postal Service through your tax dollars. The USPS has been a functioning service for over 200 years running its entire network through sales of its products and services.

Although first-class mail has decreased, parcels have increased exponentially, and when combined with e-Commerce and the delivery of almost 40% of Amazon's packages, there are 500+ million pieces being processed/delivered daily by the USPS. Below are some facts regarding the USPS that many may not be aware of:

- The USPS employs more than 500,000 people and is at the heart of the \$1.4 trillion mailing industry that employs 7.5 million people.
- Veterans and women comprise nearly 20% and 44.61% of the USPS workforce, respectively.
- The USPS is the number one postal operator in the world while accounting for 40% of the mail volume worldwide.

The USPS's financial challenges were created by a 2006 Congressional action that mandated the USPS pre-fund retiree healthcare costs for 75 years into the future. No other agency has this ridiculous burden that has led to short staffing, diminished services, and a reduction in delivery standards. There are many bi-partisan postal reform bills pending in both the House and the Senate. Congress should correct the pre-funding issue they created to insure a vibrant public USPS for generations to come. It was recently reported that *"a survey from Fortune 1000 companies showed that 61% do not pre-fund future retirees health benefits at all. The U.S. Postal Service has already amassed nearly \$50 billion for future retiree health benefits."*

Earlier this year, President Trump created a task force looking for recommendations for the future of the US Postal Service. It is predicted that this report's intentions are an attempt to privatize the USPS by chiseling away some or all services to private corporations. If the USPS is privatized, it will decrease services to everyone in the country and increase prices. The American Postal Workers Union believes that rather than dismantling or weakening the USPS, the infrastructure of the USPS is such that there are opportunities to advance and develop services to better assist the public.

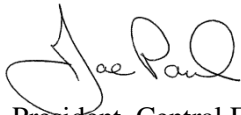


Delivering the mail six days per week to virtually everywhere, regardless whether it is a business, residential home, or a secluded or remote destination without an extra charge, makes the USPS a vital public service and has been for over 200 years! The USPS has some of the lowest rates for first class postage in the world and delivers to nearly 157 million addresses daily. It has a dedicated, trained workforce of over 500,000 employees and ranks as one of the most trusted government agencies in the country, with a recent survey released stating that, “*The U.S. Postal Service is the most popular government agency, with 88% of Americans viewing the service favorably.*”

Below are a few ideas proposed to strengthen the USPS:

- Postal banking services,
- Notary services,
- Extended hours at neighborhood Post Office locations,
- Additional staff at retail outlets to shorten lines, and
- Restoring overnight delivery of first-class mail and periodicals.

We look forward to America keeping the USPS strong, innovative and forward moving today and for many years to come.



President, Central Florida Area Local, #1462
American Postal Workers Union

