



## The Importance of Saturday Delivery

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe is planning to eliminate Saturday mail delivery in August as the “solution” to USPS’s recent financial challenges. However, Donahoe’s proposal ignores the benefits Saturday delivery provides to citizens and businesses nationwide and misunderstands the impact such a change would have on the Postal Service’s profitability. At its core, cutting Saturday delivery would be penny-wise and pound-foolish.

### The Facts:

- The Postal Regulatory Commission’s year-long review of the Postal Service’s 2010 proposal to move to five-day delivery of mail and packages concluded that it would: save 45 percent less than forecast, risk much greater revenue losses than projected and slow mail delivery for 25 percent of the Postal Service’s First Class and Priority mail volume.
- Research commissioned by USPS, which was discovered last year despite the Postal Service’s initial attempts to bury it, indicates that the combined impact of slower service standards, post office closings and the end of Saturday delivery would reduce mail volume by 7.7 percent and result in a loss of \$5.3 billion in revenues. That revenue loss would exceed the projected savings from the cuts.
- From a strict business standpoint, cutting Saturday delivery is nonsensical. Sacrificing 16 percent of service to save — at most — three percent of budget is not a rational business formula. Reducing service to customers is never the right way to save a business.
- Business in the United States is conducted around the clock. Small and large businesses, from individual entrepreneurs to large corporations, rely on the delivery of the mail six days a week to operate successfully. And, dropping a day of mail delivery would force businesses to use more expensive private services on Saturday, increasing their costs. In fact, thousands of businesses filed petitions against eliminating Saturday delivery with the Postal Regulatory Commission in 2011.
- Dropping Saturday delivery would hurt all Americans and cause disproportionate harm to the elderly, those with limited Internet access, rural communities and small businesses. In 2011, more than one million Americans signed a petition supporting Saturday delivery.
- Tens of thousands of jobs will be lost if a day of delivery is dropped. These jobs would impact Americans in every state and could have big impacts for our country’s veterans, a group historically welcomed into the Postal Service with open arms but still struggling to find employment elsewhere in a weak economy.
- Moreover, eliminating key services would not even address the real and immediate financial challenge facing the Postal Service — which is not related to the delivery of mail. Since 2007, a short-sighted mandate from Congress has required the Postal Service to set aside in just ten years enough money to pay almost all retiree health benefits for the next 75 years — something no other public agency or private company is required to do. This mandate has cost the Postal Service more than \$32 billion since implemented in 2007, accounting for almost all of its red ink during this period.

The postmaster general’s plan to eliminate Saturday delivery is shortsighted, dangerous and legally suspect. Only Congress has the power to change the USPS delivery schedule. Any legislation that advances Donahoe’s plan will only weaken the Postal Service further and alienate the very customers who depend on reliable mail service six days a week.