

## Resolution to Protect the United States Postal Service

**WHEREAS** the United States Postal Service is a vital component of this country's economic and communications infrastructure, handling and delivering 160 billion pieces of mail and generating more than \$65 billion in revenues annually, while receiving no taxpayer funding; and

**WHEREAS** the mailing industry, which employs 8 million Americans, generates over \$1 trillion in annual revenues and represents approximately 7% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP), depends on the U.S. Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail service and delivery networks six days a week; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Postal Service is the only private company or federal agency required by Congress to pre-fund future-retiree health premiums for 75 years into the future, and to do so within a 10-year period, thus entailing a crippling \$5.5 billion annual payment which has led to service cuts; and

**WHEREAS** states that vote almost entirely by mail, such as Washington, are especially dependent on full and reliable mail service for timely exercise of their voting franchise; and

**WHEREAS** the Postal Service is the second largest employer of U.S. Veterans, who comprise over 22% of its present workforce; and

**WHEREAS** rural communities, many of which do not have access to the Internet, remain dependent on the Postal Service for vital communications and for the shipment and receipt of goods; and

**WHEREAS** many Americans, particularly senior citizens, depend on the Postal Service for receipt of their prescription drugs;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we urge our U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to support postal-reform legislation that would stabilize Postal Service finances by reforming or eliminating the unique requirement of pre-funding future retiree health benefits, and thereby (1) secure the continuation of six-day mail delivery, (2) strengthen and protect the Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail service and delivery networks that together comprise a vital part of our nation's infrastructure, and (3) retain door-to-door service for over 30 million households and businesses; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, the Postmaster General, and the Washington State Democratic Party.

Adopted April 16, 2014, by the Benton County Democratic Central Committee

Previously adopted by the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Democrats

Source: the Washington State Association of Letter Carriers:

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