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The News-Gazette Corporation  
Lexington, VA

February 26, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rand Paul  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
340 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gerry Connolly  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
2105 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
340 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Comer and Paul and Ranking Members Peters and Connolly,

The National Newspaper Association (NNA) has noted with great interest and concern the reports of potential far-reaching changes to the United States Postal Service (USPS). NNA believes that meaningful change at the USPS is needed. The service degradation and twice-a-year punitive rate increases under the Delivering for America plan has made the USPS prohibitively expensive and unreliable for our members and their subscribers. As the administration considers what appear to be profound changes to the leadership structure of the USPS, we urge you as leaders of the oversight committees to ensure that these changes will be viable, durable, and consistent with the law. Moreover, it is critical that any changes preserve the mechanisms that provide accountability for the USPS to ensure that it is operating for the benefit of Americans and once again provides affordable, reliable universal service to every community in the country.

The USPS has been a vital distribution partner for our publishers who serve communities and neighborhoods throughout rural America. As changes are contemplated, we hope there will be recognition that they are the most dependent on mail service to deliver essential news about local issues that is provided nowhere else and communications vital to allow small businesses to thrive.

We urge you to pursue these issues from a customer-focused perspective. The lack of engagement from the current USPS leadership has been detrimental and inclusion of customer perspectives in future oversight hearings would provide the committees with first-hand reaction to proposed changes. No business can endure without customers and the USPS cannot survive without mailers. Their needs must be understood and fulfilled. One venue that would assist in ensuring this occurs is the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC). This organization was created to provide USPS leadership with detailed input on the needs and challenges of every customer segment. As new leadership is installed, it is an invaluable resource to gain insight and input on details that would allow successful execution of new policies and avoid unintended negative consequences. The signatories on this letter are all members of NNA's delegation to MTAC and stand ready to assist the administration and your committee in identifying and implementing changes that will restore the USPS to success and ensure its sustainability.

The USPS faces financial insolvency as soon as 2028, making the need for significant change clear. We urge you to actively engage in this process and move qualified Board of Governor nominees swiftly through the confirmation



process and promptly consider any legislation requested that would ensure that the USPS's financial situation is secured through efficiency and productivity improvements and astute management of its assets. We strongly advise a freeze on further implementation of the proposed July increase until new leadership is installed and can review its effect on mail volume. While inflation has been an economic challenge throughout the country, no other group of customers has been subject to repetitive increases multiple times the rate of inflation, year after year. Over the last several years, the USPS has decimated its customer base with these rate hikes yet continued to rack up multi-billion-dollar losses every year. This must end.

We also support incorporation of the USPS SERVES US Act (H.R. 9839) introduced at the end of the last Congress. This legislation would modernize and bolster the power of the Postal Regulatory Commission to make it an effective regulator for the USPS. Given the broad scope of changes that are being contemplated, this is even more important to safeguard the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of these views and we are eager to work with you and your staff to foster the positive changes that are so critically needed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Martha Diaz Aszkenazy.

Martha Diaz Aszkenazy, Chair, National Newspaper Association  
Publisher, The San Fernando Valley (CA) Sun/El Sol Newspapers

Handwritten signature of Lynne Lance.

Lynne Lance, NNA Executive Director, Pensacola, Florida  
USPS Mailers Technical Advisory Committee

Handwritten signature of John M. Galer.

John Galer, Publisher, The Journal-News, Inc., Hillsboro, Illinois  
USPS Mailers Technical Advisory Committee

Handwritten signature of Matthew W. Paxton.

Matt Paxton, President, News-Gazette Corporation, Lexington, Virginia  
USPS Mailers Technical Advisory Committee

Handwritten signature of Brad Hill.

Brad Hill, Chief Executive Officer, Interlink Software, Berrien Springs, Michigan  
USPS Mailers Technical Advisory Committee