



September 20, 2019

Dear Representative,

On behalf of more than 500,000 postal employees, who are a critical part of the \$1.4 trillion mailing industry, which employs 7.5 million Americans in total, we write to you in opposition to any efforts to withdraw the United States from the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

The UPU is an agency of the United Nations that allows all 192 participating countries to provide universal postal services to citizens, businesses, and governments worldwide. For the United States, it allows Americans who are living abroad to send letters and packages back home and for their families to reach them at affordable rates. It provides the infrastructure for the transport and exchange of letters, e-packets and packages that benefits all Americans and their businesses – including payment systems, automated processing systems and advanced electronic data (AED) for customs officials.

Leaving the UPU would deny ourselves access to this infrastructure and threaten the world’s invaluable system of universal postal services. This would raise costs for consumers, reduce access for millions of American families with overseas ties, and have unpredictable impacts on international mailers. For that reason, the International Mailers Advisory Group, a trade association of international shippers, also opposes exiting the UPU.

It is important to note that the Postal Service does not lose money on its international business. In 2018, it earned a surplus of \$663 million on revenues of \$2.6 billion. Pulling out of the UPU because the USPS loses money on a certain segment of its international business makes no sense – this issue is best solved within the UPU. Exiting the UPU would weaken the Postal Service both internationally and domestically.

Should the United States leave the UPU, the U.S. would be forced to renegotiate bilateral agreements with each of the 191 member countries. This would be wholly impractical, expensive, and drawn out, especially when it makes much more sense to go to the next UPU Congress in 2020 and continue to pursue our goals on a multilateral basis in a way that will preserve universal service.

Efforts to withdraw from the UPU could have unintended negative consequences on American citizens and businesses and hurt the Postal Service financially and impact your own constituents whose businesses and livelihoods could suffer from the increased associated costs. We request that you and all Members of Congress urge the White House not to withdraw the United States from the Universal Postal Union.

Sincerely,

Fredric V. Rolando
President
National Association of Letter Carriers

Mark Dimondstein
President
American Postal Workers Union

Paul V. Hogrogian
President
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

Ronnie W. Stutts
President
National Rural Letter Carriers Association