

Administration's Postal Reform Act of 2014

[Darryl Issa's Latest Attack on Postal Workers]

Darryl Issa Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee has drafted language of a postal reform bill that is scheduled for mark up on Wednesday May 7th 2014. It is the intent of Mr. Issa to create a bill based on several very damaging items for postal workers that have been in the annual White House budget since 2011. This places the President at odds with members of his own party in an election year. While it appears this is political theater and not a sincere attempt at passing legislation, we should take any attempt at postal reform seriously and as such here are the main provisions of this bill.

- The Postal Service may establish a general, nationwide mail delivery schedule of 5 days per week.
- The Postal Service may establish a program to enter into leasing agreements with any State, local, or tribal government for the joint use of its property and services.
- It shall be the policy of the Postal Service to use the most cost-effective primary mode of mail delivery feasible for postal patrons. "PHASEOUT OF DOOR DELIVERY"!!!
- Prefunding retiree healthcare in 2014 and 2015. \$2.85B and \$2.9B dollars respectively (president's budget waves these payments) with the dangerous extending payments out 40 years (Prefunding monies are invested so they earn 5% less than health care costs historically go up creating Billions of dollars in yearly payments even if this account is fully funded).
- Refund of overpayments into retirement system half each year. (unclear if this is limited to less than what has been really overpaid)
- Initially Chairman Issa wanted full access to mailboxes by any business on days the USPS does not deliver. This would drastically cut postal revenues and encourage privatizing of Saturday and Sunday delivery of the mail. The latest draft has this removed but we will see if and when the mark up takes place if this horrible provision is reinserted.

It is not likely the majority party would like to appear on the same side as the president on any issue and this bill does not have much of the minority parties priorities so this markup may be canceled due to lack of support. I will attend the markup and as always the devil is in the details so debate and amendments will be critical. I will report developments as they arise.

Yours In Friendship and Solidarity,

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