



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

1920 L STREET, N.W. - SUITE 200 - WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 - 202-785-0266 - [HTTP://WWW.ATR.ORG](http://www.ATR.org)

Welcome to the Hotel Postal Service

When the time comes for the US Postal Service, as widely expected, to ask Congress for a bailout worth upwards of \$5 billion dollars, taxpayers should feel more than a little squeamish. And when the taxpayers find out that as the Postal Service holds out the begging bowl it also boasts one of the premier conference centers in North America as one of its assets, they should feel outraged.

With 477 guest rooms, including 81 deluxe suites and certain amenities “necessary” to business such as the fitness center and heated indoor swimming pool, the US Postal Service seems to have their own Embassy Suites on its hands. Well, it isn’t a hotel; it is the “Bolger Center for Leadership Development”, located on 83 acres of woodlands in scenic Potomac, Maryland.

The Bolger Center is another asset of the Postal Service that could (and SHOULD) be sold to plug the hole in its leaking budget and ultimately help to stop the bleeding of the American taxpayers’ wallets and pocketbooks.

The USPS is one of the nation’s last remaining monopolies. It does not pay taxes. It can borrow from the Treasury and operates exempt from many of the same federal regulations that burden its private sector competitors. But despite all the huge advantages (or arguably because of them!), labor costs have kept the Postal Service unable to realize more than a 12% increase in productivity over the last three decades, compared to a 55% rate of productivity increase in businesses overall during the same period. No wonder, then, it can’t make ends meet anymore...

Giving this financial sinkhole one thin dime of taxpayer money would be unforgivable. The USPS must be compelled to reach into its own pockets instead of trying to rummage through the pockets of America’s taxpayers for any loose change it can grab. The USPS’ expected reform proposals

shouldn't be taken seriously until it adequately demonstrates that it won't flinch from cutting costs. Selling the excessively luxuriant Bolger Center would be a welcome indication of the USPS' resolve.