



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

July 12, 2016

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Oversight and Government Reform Chairman
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz, Ranking Member Cummings, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), and millions of taxpayers nationwide, we write regarding the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's markup today of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2016, introduced by Chairman Jason Chaffetz and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings.

While increasing the operational efficiency and financial stability of the United States Postal Service (USPS) is a laudable goal, a number of the reforms contained in the Postal Service Reform Act are not in line with achieving that goal. **Instead, provisions within the Act providing for the increase of postal rates and an expansion beyond the core mission of mail delivery will only perpetuate many of the issues already plaguing the Postal Service.**

It is no secret the Postal Service has suffered from prolonged financial instability. Since 2007 the Postal Service has consecutively posted billions in losses and is facing \$125 billion in unfunded liabilities, most of which is due in part to the decline of traditional mail.

Although these issues are concerning, the answer should not be reforms that increase rates on some of the Postal Service's most profitable products, essentially forcing consumers beholden to a government monopoly to cover USPS shortfalls. It is also not the answer to expand USPS services further outside of the core mission of mail delivery by creating a "Chief Innovation Officer" tasked with developing and implementing "nonpostal products and services."

Lawmakers should instead look to make meaningful reforms that focus on improving the efficiency of the Postal Service's core mission of mail delivery and increase operational transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,

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