

# *Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers*



## *President's Report*

June 2014

Greeting Brothers and Sisters,

Some people never give up it seems. About a year ago Congressman Issa introduced a bill that would eliminate 6-day delivery. He and two other congressmen supported it.

Then about 6 months ago when Congress did the right thing by NOT reducing military pension COLA's as called for in the Ryan-Murray budget deal, Issa introduced a bill to eliminate 6-day delivery in order to pay for the increase in military pensions that will result from the continuation of the COLA's. That bill got 0 (that's zero - as in 'not even one') co-sponsors.

So in May of this year, Issa was ready to introduce another bill to eliminate 6-day delivery. He named it the Administration's Postal Proposal Act of 2015 to reflect his intention to work with the President to effect the elimination of Saturday delivery that was called for in the President's budget proposal. He was ready to introduce it but didn't because he found that there was no support from anyone for that bill either. Yep, zero again.

I thought that since almost no one supported the last 3 bills that would eliminate 6-day delivery that maybe, just maybe, the vocal minority in Congress would understand that the majority in Congress want the Postal Service to continue to deliver 6 days a week. Maybe they could look at the most recent list of co-sponsors of H.Res. 30 that expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service. They would find that 222 (that's a majority) are co-sponsors.

Alas, there are rumblings that Congress must act quickly to prop up the Highway Trust Fund before it runs dry in August, and could do so by eliminating 6-day delivery. They say that eliminating 6-day delivery will save almost \$11 billion over the next 10 years so now they can immediately transfer \$14 or \$15 billion cash into the Highway Trust Fund to "solve" the problem, at least for this year. Have to do it quick though before the Highway Trust Fund goes broke and Congress goes on recess - or is that go to recess, before anyone can double check the homework?

I think I know where postal math got its origins.

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Stay informed on this issue and be ready to contact your representative if they try to push a bill through that would dismantle the postal service for a one-year fix for the Highway Trust Fund.

AND, as I was finishing this article, I see there is an update from our legislative department in Washington. Seems there is NO support for ending 6-day delivery and using a budget gimmick to transfer “savings” into the Highway Trust Fund. Maybe because it’s simply an illogical solution?

However, a house subcommittee will be introducing an appropriations bill next week and the chair of the committee claims that the PMG and President have asked that the language preserving 6-day delivery be dropped from the bill. Presumably an amendment will be offered to re-insert the language. The Senate appropriations bill is expected to have the long standing 6-day delivery language included. Will this be a contentious fight – or will it be included one more time with protest from the minority.

Certainly it is another reminder of what will happen if we elect people to the House and Senate who do not support us.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach  
President

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