

New York Times, Kenneth Ellman, Published Comments, September 5, 2011

Postal Service Is Nearing Default as Losses Mount

From Kenneth Ellman, email:ke@kennethellman.com, Box 18, Newton, NJ 07860

In reference to the NYTimes article "Postal Service Is Nearing Default as Losses Mount"

I make the following points:

1. The United States Post Office and or United States Postal Service and the Postmaster General are governmental functions specifically authorized by the United States Constitution. The reason for the existence of the Post Office is the same now as it always has been. That is for the United States Government itself to provide a method for communication and delivery for the people of the United States. It is one of the most vital public rights and services performed by the Government. It is a promise by our government to our people that the government itself will always provide a basic method of communication for all the citizens.

2. The Post Office is and does provide a government office in communities across the United States of all sizes and geography. The dispatch of letters is unusually cheap and allows the transmission of paper documents and other envelope contents anywhere in the United States and in most places in the world. Further the various features of Certified and Registered Mail and other offerings create a scheme of protection for the sender and receiver of such communications and letters.

3. In addition the employment offered by the United States Post Offices has contributed to the existence of a "middle class" with secure and reasonable employment in decent and safe jobs. This type of government employment is significant and important for the country.

4. The Post Office, its facilities and the mail dispatched by all our citizens is protected by the Postal Inspection Service and the Postal Police, all law enforcement employees of the United States Government.

5. Whether the Postal Service, which is nothing more than a branch of the United States Government (all fictions laid aside) needs more money or can be managed more efficiently really is a separate question from the fact that it is a part of our government that must always continue to be available to all citizens even if greatly subsidized by our taxes and governmental budget process.

6. Congress must do what is necessary to maintain this vital Constitutional obligation for all citizens everywhere. The availability of mail service in each and every community is part of the nation and a duty of our government to directly offer and make available such communication services.

Stop pretending that profitability matters, it does not. What matters is the rights of all Americans to be able to access cheap and timely communication services, directly provided by our government in the form of Post Offices across our nation. Increase our Postal Services, do not lessen them and do not further injure decent middle class employment opportunities which are already under severe stress for all Americans. When we lay off Postal employees we lay off our middle class government employees which does nothing but injure our country. Does anyone really believe we have no work for them to do?? Remember who we are and the values we must protect if our population is to flourish. Kenneth Ellman, email:ke@kennethellman.com, Box 18, Newton, New Jersey 07860

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