



# National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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Statement of National President Paul V. Hogrogian, National Postal Mail Handlers Union

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) is the exclusive bargaining agent of over 53,000 Mail Handlers throughout the United States Postal Service (USPS), working in process and distribution centers across the country. Mail Handlers are an essential part of the mail processing and distribution network utilized by the Postal Service to move more than 165 billion pieces of mail each year. We work in all of the nation’s large postal plants, throughout the 50 States and Puerto Rico, where mail handlers are responsible for loading and unloading trucks, transporting mail within the facility, preparing, sorting, and containerizing the mail for distribution and delivery, and operating a host of machinery and automated equipment.

The Postal Service continually faces decreases in mail volume and thus revenue. This year alone package mail was down by 6.9 percent from last and first-class mail down by 5.8 percent. As a result, USPS reported a net loss of \$3.3 billion from last year. To combat financial losses, the *Delivering for America* (DFA) plan set out to realign the network. This resulted in changes with regional processing and distribution centers (RPDCs) and regional transportation optimization.

While these changes initially resulted in delays in service, the Postal Service has since corrected many of the problems associated with the earlier roll out of the RPDCs. The implementation of the latest RPDCs has now gone much smoother. While we will work to minimize the impact of the realignment on our members, we will also continue to work with the Postal Service to maintain the Postal Service’s status as one of the most trusted agencies of the Federal Government.

In December 2025, before the full House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Chairman Comer raised the question of whether it would be prudent to out-source or subcontract processing jobs – mail handler jobs. Then-Postmaster General (PMG) Louis DeJoy, who himself had been a subcontractor of Postal Service work, responded it would not be feasible. Consistent with that position, during his tenure as PMG, Mr. DeJoy brought back mail handler jobs that were previously subcontracted, recognizing that having the work of the Postal Service performed by its dedicated employees was the most efficient and effective way of doing business.

But moving forward and with a new PMG, the NPMHU is concerned that the Postal Service will once again look at mail handler jobs as a means of savings. In February 2025, a Department of

Government Efficiency (DOGE)-backed executive order (EO) was rumored that would place USPS under the Department of Commerce; eliminate the Postal Board of Governors; and, privatize certain postal jobs. Though this EO did not come to fruition, DOGE and USPS signed memorandums of understanding in March that would allow DOGE to examine how the USPS manages and can improve upon: funding of retirement assets; how to reduce workers compensation costs; examining unfunded mandates and regulatory requirements; cooperation opportunities with federal agencies; options for savings with leased real estate; and how to combat postage fraud.

If Mail Handler jobs are subcontracted, it will result in a loss of thousands of middle-class jobs that pay a living wage, not a minimum wage. Those quality wages are important not only for the employees and their families but also for the communities where they live. Subcontracted work and facilities are also less safe and therefore less efficient, jeopardizing the stability that is essential to meeting service standards. Time and time again, studies have shown that better pay leads to a growing middle class. The NPMHU is proud that a union Mail Handler job has given our member access to the American Dream.

While NPMHU appreciates the goal of cost saving, the Union is concerned about the reach of DOGE. The Union has seen the impact of DOGE entering other federal agencies that resulted in the misuse of employee data; termination of employees that lead to costly rehires; and, loss of public trust in the federal government. All stakeholders should agree that any action that would erode public trust and confidence in the Postal Service must be avoided.

The Union is also concerned that the misuse and mishandling of employees' data could result in identity theft and fraud, leading to costly financial settlements and costly investments in information security systems. DOGE has given assurances to USPS that they will not access employee information, however, DOGE accidentally gained access to such information at the Office of Personnel Management and the Treasury Department. Lawsuits against OPM and DOGE are currently pending for this illegal access to employee data.

It should also be noted that the Postal Service is self-funded through postage and other postal products and does not rely upon taxpayer dollars. As the main goal of DOGE is to reduce federal spending, it is unclear why the Department is targeting a non-appropriated independent agency to do so. Any savings that result from cutbacks at USPS would not necessarily go back to taxpayers.

The United States Postal Service should strive for a financially sustainable future, however, this needs to be done with a scalpel, not a chainsaw. Careful examination needs to be done with a focus on demand and pricing, with the understanding of the universal service obligation. For this goal to be achieved, there needs to be input from all stakeholders and with the understanding that a solution cannot be developed overnight. The National Postal Mail Handlers Union is dedicated to this goal, and will continue to work towards it.