

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

XXXX XX, 2008

The Honorable John E. Potter
Postmaster General, CEO
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Potter:

The Federal Government employs numerous individuals who must supply their own personal vehicle in order to perform their daily on-the-job duties; the United States Postal Service (USPS) is among these Agencies. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and as we understand USPS-Postal Union Contracts, provides a reimbursement for the use of an employee's personal vehicle while performing their duties. Unfortunately, the reimbursement the individuals are receiving is no longer adequate to cover the costs of maintaining their vehicle for work.

Members of Congress are concerned with the skyrocketing cost of gas. We are hearing from USPS employees in our districts that the USPS reimbursement mechanism is not coming close to keeping pace with actual at the pump prices these employees are paying. With the average price of gas hovering above four dollars per gallon nationwide, and economists predicting the price of a barrel of oil to reach \$150 and possibly above by mid-summer, this expense will be felt even more by the employees who provide their own vehicle.

We are writing to ask what steps the USPS has taken or is planning to take to alleviate the rising cost of gas for employees who provide and use their own vehicle for the pickup, delivery, and distribution of mail on behalf of the USPS. These employees are providing an essential public service to the nation, and the cost of fueling their vehicle should be covered by their reimbursement and not from their own pocketbooks.

We all agree that the current reimbursement mechanism the USPS uses to reimburse their employees who provide their own personal vehicle for the pickup, delivery, and distribution of the mail needs to be updated or readjusted during this time of unprecedented high gas prices. We urge you to work with the representatives, unions, and associations who represent these specific employees who provide their own vehicle to find an agreement to reimburse these employees at the fairest manner possible.

Postal carriers' are the face of the Postal Service, delivering 46% of the world's mail in the most efficient manner. These carriers deserve to be fairly compensated for the outstanding service they provide to their nation, and should not be left to use out-of-pocket expenses to perform their job duties. We thank you for taking attention to this very important manner.