



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTMASTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES

TESTIMONY OF
DAVID PAIGE

PRESIDENT

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER OF
NAPUS

BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 10, 2008

Mr. Chairman and Committee members, I am David Paige, President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS). I am testifying on behalf of the 372 members of my Association who live and work in New Hampshire.

I think it is evident that our State is postal-dependent. We are a rural state, where miles separate towns, communities and even neighbors. In such a demographic environment, strategies to tie our citizens to each other and connect with widely dispersed points of commerce are essential to our economic and social well-being. House Bill 1506-FN tears at the very social and economic fabric that makes our beloved State so special. While the legislation strives to carve-out an exemption for 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, there are many educational and other worthy benevolent organizations that may get entangled in the restrictions imposed by the measure. Moreover, the legislation will squeeze the lifeblood out of the many New Hampshire-based small businesses, who employ more than 20 workers. These are all my customers and they help underwrite the cost of 6-day, affordable, residential mail delivery, and retail postal services throughout New Hampshire.

In addition, the economic consequences of passing HB 1506 to the 4,500 New Hampshire employees of the United States Postal Service, which includes Postmasters, would be irreparable. Decreased postal revenue would make it more difficult for Postmasters and Postal management to fully staff Post Offices and replace retiring postal employees. The result would be less postal window service, longer lines and shorter retail hours. Also, your constituents could anticipate late and unpredictable residential and business mail deliveries. This degradation of the quality mail service that New Hampshire residents expect and deserve would be a grave byproduct of HB 1506. Consequently, I urge you to oppose the bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.