

UPMA President Tony Leonardi Calls on Congress to Invest in Postal Infrastructure, Expand Rural Services

Leonardi Addresses Congressional Postal Service Caucus, Warns Against Repeating POSTplan Mistakes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Tony Leonardi, National President of the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA), delivered remarks last week before the Congressional Postal Service Caucus, urging members of Congress to prioritize investment in postal infrastructure and expand services in rural communities rather than pursue further cuts to retail operations.

The Congressional Postal Service Caucus is a bipartisan group of House members dedicated to supporting the United States Postal Service and ensuring reliable mail delivery for all Americans. Co-chaired by Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski and Congressman Jack Bergman, the caucus serves as a key forum for postal stakeholders — including unions, management associations, and community advocates — to engage directly with legislators on issues affecting postal workers and the communities they serve.

In his remarks, Leonardi reminded Caucus members of the impacts of the 2012 POSTplan disproportionate impact on Postmasters and rural operations. “When a post office loses a postmaster, you don’t just cut a position — you weaken the connection between that community and its government,” Leonardi said. He cautioned Congress against repeating a model that, when accounting for fixed costs, lost revenue, and costly contractual grievances, it delivered far fewer savings than originally projected.

Leonardi outlined UPMA’s proposed path forward, calling on Congress to raise the Postal Service’s borrowing capacity to modernize facilities and vehicles, allow the agency to invest its retirement fund for greater long-term returns, and expand revenue-generating services at post offices — including passport processing, driver’s license renewals, and hunting and fishing license issuance. He also urged congressional action on several pieces of pending legislation, including the Protect Postal Performance Act (H.R. 2103), the Postal Supervisors, Managers, and Postmasters Fairness Act (H.R. 7600), and the Equal COLA Act (H.R. 491), among others.

“The best path forward is to invest in the infrastructure and in a stable workforce, not further cuts to retail facilities. UPMA stands ready to work with Congress to ensure the Postal Service remains a trusted and viable service to the American people, no matter where they live.”

— Tony Leonardi, National President, UPMA

Best,
Brian

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