

Dianne Feinstein

United States Senator for California

Dear Fredric:

I received your letter and appreciate knowing your views regarding the United States Postal Service (USPS). Your correspondence is important to me, and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Faced with an ongoing deficit and a significant decrease in mail volume, the USPS, in my view, must adapt to accommodate changing trends. However, I believe Congress must ensure that changes do not unduly impact communities or undermine the future viability of the Postal Service.

On April 24, 2012, the Senate passed the "21st Century Postal Service Act of 2011" (S.1789). This comprehensive legislation would have eased the Postal Service's financial burden by refunding the money it overpaid into the Federal Employee Retirement System. Moreover, the bill would have reduced the amount the Postal Service must pre-fund into its retirement system, extended 6-day delivery standards for two years, and encouraged additional revenue raising options.

In addition, I filed an amendment to S. 1789 with Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), which would have required USPS to study and publish the effects of closing a postal facility on the ability of the affected community to vote by mail. My amendment was voice voted and passed the Senate; however, S. 1789 did not become law because the House of Representatives failed to pass its own postal reform bill before the end of the 112th Congress.

You may be interested to know that on February 13, 2013, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced the "Postal Service Protection Act of 2013" (S. 316). S. 316 was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, of which I am not a member. Please know that I will keep your thoughts in mind as Congress continues to work toward passage of postal reform legislation.

Once again, thank you for writing. I hope you will continue to keep me informed on issues of importance to you. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3841, or visit my website at <http://feinstein.senate.gov>. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator