



October 22, 2010

USPS Appeals PRC Rate Hike Rejection; Support DMA in Continuing the Fight!

On September 30, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) unanimously denied the US Postal Service's (USPS) request to enact "exigent" price increases in 2011. DMA praised the PRC's decision, having led efforts on behalf of its members to encourage the PRC to reject the USPS request for an unlawful and exorbitant rate increase.

Today, USPS filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit seeking to overturn the PRC's decision. Its press statement announcing the appeal stated, "the Postal Service disagrees with the PRC's interpretation of the statutory language and believes that the PRC applied an incorrect standard in evaluating the request for an exigent price increase."

The requested rate hike would have increased postal rates by nearly ten times the rate of inflation, requiring customers to pay an additional \$3 billion annually for postage despite the current rate of inflation remaining close to zero. The PRC decision requires the Postal Service to continue following the current law, which limits any postage increase to the rate of inflation.

DMA believes that the PRC decision to deny the massive postage increase sought by the Postal Service was correct on the law, the facts and public policy. DMA opposes USPS' appeal and will actively support the PRC decision in court. On Tuesday, October 26, 2010, DMA will convene the Affordable Mail Alliance, a coalition of postal customers that fought the USPS postage increase at the PRC, to begin preparations to fight this money grab by USPS.

Our initial fight at the PRC was funded through DMA's existing budget and member dues. While DMA will continue to partner with the Affordable Mail Alliance – pooling resources in order to have the greatest impact – the legal expenses necessary for this next phase of the fight will require support from DMA members. **DMA is asking members to contribute \$5,000 toward this effort to preserve our victory at the PRC and save American postal customers \$30 billion over the next 10 years.** Please help by contacting [Jerry Cerasale](#), DMA's senior vice president of government affairs by email or at 202-861-2423.

To read more about DMA's fight against exorbitant postal increases, visit DMAAction.org. To read the USPS statement regarding its file for appeal, please visit the [USPS website](#).