November 17, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Reid,

We are asking your support for efforts to help the United States Postal Service through our unprecedented nationwide financial difficulty. The $900 billion mailing industry, millions of jobs, continued efficient universal postal services, and the long-term survival of the Postal Service are at stake.

The 2006 postal reform law required the Postal Service to pay off, over the next ten years, its actuarial unfunded liability for retiree health insurance coverage. Given today’s economic crisis with its unprecedented loss of mail volume and spikes in fuel costs, the 10-year payment schedule required by the 2006 law has become unrealistic.

The Postal Service has proposed an adjustment to that payment schedule which would preserve the law’s requirement for full funding of retiree health benefits, but lessen the financial demand on the Postal Service for several years. It does not relieve the Postal Service of any existing financial obligation. Employee and retiree benefits are fully protected.

This is not a bail out. The proposal does not adversely affect the deficit. It is simply a cash management change.

We urge you to support the Postal Service’s proposal. Swift legislative enactment of the proposal is critical to the Postal Service, its employees, and the mailing industry.

4imprint, Inc.
Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers
American Business Media
American Express Company
American Postal Workers Union
Blue Package Delivery LLC
Conde Nast Publications
Deluxe Corporation
DHL Global Mail
Direct Marketing Association
Dynacolor Graphics
Experian
Financial Publishers Association
Hearst Magazines
Lands’ End
Mailers’ Council
Mailing & Fulfillment Service Assoc.
Meredith Corporation
NAPL
National Association of Letter Carriers
National Assoc. of Postal Supervisors
Nat’l. Assoc. of Postmasters of the U.S.
National Geographic Society
National League of Postmasters
National Newspaper Association
National Postal Mail Handlers Union
Nat’l. Rural Letter Carriers Association
Newgistics
Newspaper Association of America
Newsweek Inc.
National Postal Policy Council
Parcel Shippers Association
Pitney Bowes Inc.
Printing Industries of America
Publishers Clearing House
Puerto Rico DDU Plus, Inc.
Princess House, Inc.
The McGraw-Hill Companies
The Nation Company, L.P.
Time Warner
Quebecor World Logistics
QVC, Inc.
SkyPostal Networks, Inc.
The Reader’s Digest Association, Inc.
Ursa Major LLC