May 27, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
235 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert,

On behalf of the nation's top investment newsletter publishers, I am writing to you about an issue that is of concern to the Financial Publishers Association, the Administration's position on military pensions and postal reform.

The matter of postal reform is the subject of two bills currently under consideration in Congress, H.R. 22 and S. 662. As you know, the House bill already has gone through mark-up and is expected to go to the floor in early June while the Senate bill is still in committee and is expected to be marked up in June as well.

We are concerned about the Postal Service's liability for the military portion of a postal retiree's benefit and an escrow of monies required under P.L. 108-18. The President's approach to these matters (which is quite different than the approach recommended in H.R. 22, S. 662, or even the recommendation to the President by his Commission on the Postal Service) may prove to be unnecessarily and excessively harmful not only to our businesses' long-term viability but to the U.S. economy as a whole.

Over 9 million American jobs are affected by the postal system and postal rates, valued at $900 billion or 8% of the GDP. As analysts who closely monitor the U.S. investment climate for our readers, we are concerned that the Administration's insistence on charging the military pension cost of USPS military hires to USPS rather than the U.S. Treasury (as is the custom for all other federal agencies except U.S. Patent and Trademark) will result in rate increases that will impact U.S. jobs and the U.S. investment climate. Keeping the investment climate strong and healthy to attract domestic and foreign investment is very important to all of us.

We would ask you to keep these concerns in mind as you review these bills in Congress.

Sincerely,

Joy Howell
Executive Director
Financial Publishers Association