

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
20 REFORMING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

30 WHEREAS: Mail volume, which had typically experienced a reliable increase each year, has
40 become stagnant and has even declined; and,

50 WHEREAS: In fiscal year 2001, advertising mail decreased for the first time in 10 years; and,

60 WHEREAS: The contraction of total mail volume during the first half of fiscal year 2002 was
70 the largest since the Great Depression, and, making matters worse, as business
80 has dropped off, Postal Service costs have continued to grow, resulting in
90 mammoth deficits for the system; and,

100 WHEREAS: Despite the increase in postage prices in summer 2001, the USPS projects losses
110 of some \$1.5 billion for fiscal 2002; this follows losses of \$1.7 billion in fiscal
120 2001 and \$200 million in 2000; and,

130 WHEREAS: While many factors have contributed to the system's crisis, a major cause has
140 been the sharp rise in the use of the Internet. Increasingly, communication is
150 taking place on-line rather than via letter carrier; and,

160 WHEREAS: The U.S. Postal Service is no ordinary business, as it enjoys a wide range of
170 perquisites and protections tied to its government status, including exemption
180 from taxation and implied guarantees from the U.S. Treasury; and,

190 WHEREAS: Foremost among these protections is its legal monopoly on letter mail:
200 Competition with the post office in this arena is a criminal offense; this
210 protectionism has created a justifiable concern that, despite the popularity of
220 Internet communication, the Postal Service could distort markets, to the
230 detriment of competitors and consumers alike; and,

240 WHEREAS: Eliminating the USPS's special privileges and recreating the service as a private,
250 competitive corporation would be good not only for consumers and competing
260 businesses, but also for the Postal Service itself.

270 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Maryland Student Legislature urges Congress to grant the
280 Postal Service additional flexibility and powers, but only if its special privileges
290 and protections are curtailed.; and,

300 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Postal Service's legal protection from letter mail
310 competition should be eliminated or curtailed. In addition, other special
320 preferences, such as limits on tax liability, should be ended; and,

330 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The USPS should be held to the same accounting standards as
340 privately owned firms; in addition to further ensuring that the USPS operates
350 like a private firm, this would help taxpayers and policymakers--who are, in
360 effect, the firm's shareholders--better gauge how their investment is faring.

370 MANDATES: President George W. Bush
380 Vice President Dick Cheney

390	Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
400	Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle
410	Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
420	House Majority Leader Tom Delay
430	House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
440	Congresswoman Sue Kelly

Sponsor:

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