

Newsmaker's Luncheon
National Press Club
Oct. 8, 2009



These are challenging times for the U.S. Postal Service, some of the toughest we've ever had. We've made solid progress in some key areas, accompanied by innovations that weren't possible a few years ago. We'll continue increasing efficiency and reducing costs, but the future demands more. We can influence the direction of our future and bring a new level of financial stability and success to the Postal Service through responsible change.

The options to achieve success are limited only by our imaginations. Important public policy decisions about the future of the Postal Service have to be made to assure a mail system that remains relevant and meets the needs of the people it serves. Collectively, we have the power to do the right thing for our nation and for generations to come. The Postal Service has shown, again and again, over the course of more than two centuries, that we can evolve to meet the changing needs of our customers, and the demands of the marketplace. We will do it again.

It starts with a conversation. We hope you'll join us in this conversation.

Select Remarks:

"I am convinced that mail will continue to be an affordable, accessible, and powerful engine to facilitate communication and commerce for our nation."

"We have to change. We have to make some important public policy decisions about the future of the Postal Service. The consequences of inaction are just too great."

"About 90 percent of mail is generated by businesses, from the biggest companies in the nation to the stores, restaurants and services in your own neighborhood. Believe me, business wouldn't be in the mail if it wasn't doing the job."

"That's why I want to establish a public dialogue about the future of the Postal Service — not as it existed yesterday, nor as it exists today, but as it evolves and changes for tomorrow."

*John E. Potter,
Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service*