

House Concurrent Resolution No. 18

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4314L.011

1 **Whereas**, the U.S. Postal Service was established as a public service by our
2 founding fathers in 1775 to bind our nation together by providing a means for commerce and
3 communication; and
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5 **Whereas**, the framers of the Constitution charged the federal government with
6 providing postal services to all communities, rich and poor, urban and rural, with uniform
7 postage rates; and
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9 **Whereas**, for nearly two hundred and thirty years the availability of dependable,
10 affordable mail service has proved vitally important to many American businesses and citizens;
11 and
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13 **Whereas**, the Postal Service remains an important part of our nation's economic
14 infrastructure, through which nearly one trillion dollars of economic activity is conducted each
15 year, and through which nine million people are employed; and
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17 **Whereas**, Americans currently enjoy the most extensive postal service at the lowest
18 postage rates of any major industrialized nation in the world; and
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20 **Whereas**, the Postal Service operates without taxpayer subsidies, and postage rate
21 increases have remained at or below the inflation rate; and
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23 **Whereas**, in pursuit of a solution to the Postal Service's recent challenges, which

24 were brought in part by declining mail volume amid a recession and terrorist attacks, the
25 president has charged a commission to recommend far-reaching changes to postal operations and
26 services; and

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28 **Whereas**, despite the Postal Service's recent economic difficulties, it continues to
29 provide special below-cost postage discounts to large business and advertising mailers, driving
30 the Postal Service billions of dollars into debt, and ultimately causing small businesses and
31 ordinary citizens to subsidize those discounts through higher postage rates; and

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33 **Whereas**, the commission is considering a wide range of "solutions" such as
34 cutting services in many communities by closing post offices or reducing their hours of operation
35 and the number of days mail is delivered each week; introducing a complicated postage rate
36 structure that would charge postal patrons based on where they send their letters and packages,
37 or even turning over postal operations to private, for-profit enterprises; and

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39 **Whereas**, millions of older, economically disadvantaged and disabled Americans
40 do not have easy access to the Internet or to electronic banking and bill paying, and therefore are
41 heavily dependent on the Postal Service for communicating and conducting business
42 transactions; and

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44 **Whereas**, the continuation of six-day mail delivery is important for many
45 businesses and community organizations, as well as many citizens who depend on Saturday
46 delivery for receiving checks, prescription drugs, gifts, and greeting cards; and

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48 **Whereas**, replacing the Postal Service's public service obligation with a profit
49 seeking mandate would undermine the Postal Service's historic "universal service" obligation,
50 weaken its national infrastructure, and divide our nation politically and economically:

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52 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
53 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate

54 concurring therein, hereby urge Congress to reject any recommendations from the President's
55 Commission to base postal services on profit seeking motives or to cut services to any American
56 community; and

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58 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
59 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
60 President of the United States and Missouri's Congressional delegation.