

Amendment #486- End Non-Profit Postal Discount for Political Parties

The United States Postal Service lost \$15.8 billion in fiscal year 2012 – or approximately \$43 million per day.

Despite these losses, Congress requires the Postal Service to give non-profit mail discounts to state and national political parties.

This amendment would remove congressional mandates on pricing discounts for political parties, requiring political parties to pay the same postage rates as everyone else.

Political parties will no longer be treated as non-profits for purposes of mail discounts.

Politicians are Giving Price Discounts to Their Own Political Parties

Under current law, the Postal Service must offer discounts to “qualified political committees.”

The following political party organizations may be entitled to a nonprofit discount when sending standard mail:

- A national committee of a political party;
- A state committee of a political party;
- The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC);
- The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee;
- The National Republican Congressional Committee; and
- The National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Taxpayers might be surprised to learn that Congress is protecting political parties ahead of the health of the Postal Service.

Political entities such as these should not be receiving discounts that deprive the cash-strapped Postal Service of sorely needed revenue.

Political Parties are Raising Significant Revenue While the Postal Service is Billions of Dollars in Debt

These entities can afford to pay the full price of standard mail to promote their political interests.

Consider that as of January 2013, the DCCC had \$4.6 million cash on hand while the Republican Committee has \$2.8 million cash on hand.¹

In February, the DCCC took in \$6.3 million and the NRCC's \$5 million.²

Just this week, the NRCC raised a record \$14.4 million at an evening fundraising dinner.³

The DCCC, RNCC, RNSC and DSCC have something the Postal Service does not – the ability to raise money to serve its needs.

Congress is already limiting the Postal Service from raising new revenue.

Congress should not further harm the Postal Service by granting itself mailing subsidies.

This is An Example of How Congress is Often the Biggest Obstacle to Postal Reform

It is time for Congress to get out of the Postal Service's way and allow it to put itself on a path to self-sustaining fiscal health.

There is no excuse for Congress writing discounts on mail into the statute for its own political parties.

This is nothing more than the perpetuation of career politicians in Washington, only this time it also harms the United States Postal Service.

This amendment would remove congressional mandates on pricing discounts so that political entities that can raise their own money do not deprive the Postal Service of much-needed revenue.

¹ <http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/283687-dccc-outraises-nrcc-in-january-by-17-million>

² <http://atr.rollcall.com/house-democrats-outraise-gop-counterparts-by-1-3m-in-february/>

³ <http://www.cq.com/doc/news-4242334>

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.