



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7  
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### CONSENT CALENDAR

June 4, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington and Mayor Tom Bates  
 Subject: Support Postal Service Protection Act of 2013

#### RECOMMENDATION

Support the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 and send letters to Congresswoman Barbara Lee urging her to co-sponsor HR 630 and to Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein urging them to co-sponsor SB 316.

#### BACKGROUND

Last month the U.S. Postal Service announced that it had decided to go ahead and move forward with the sale of the Downtown Berkeley Main Post Office despite strong opposition from Berkeley residents and the City Council.

According to the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), USPS is in the process of shutting down 70 mail processing centers. The closure of these facilities ultimately means eliminating thousands of blue-collar jobs and massive delivery delays. The fact is that USPS' s financial woes stem from a 2006 law that "requires the Postal Service to pay a 75 year liability in just 10 years – to "pre-fund" healthcare benefits for future retirees."

HR 630 and SB 316 would:

- Recalculate and restore retirement annuity obligations of the United States Postal Service (USPS);
- Eliminate the requirement that the USPS pre-fund the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, place restrictions on the closure of postal facilities;
- Create incentives for USPS innovations;
- Maintain levels of postal service.

House of Representatives Bill 630

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr630ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr630ih.pdf>

United States Senate Bill 316

<http://beta.congress.gov/113/bills/s316/113s316is.pdf>

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington

510-981-7170

Attached:

1. Letter to Congresswoman Barbara Lee
2. Letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein
3. Letter to Barbara Boxer

Dear Congresswoman Barbara Lee,

The city of Berkeley urges you to co-sponsor HR 630. Last month the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced that it had decided to go ahead and move forward with the sale of the Downtown Berkeley Main Post Office despite strong opposition from Berkeley residents and the City Council. We understand that Berkeley is not unique in its opposition to the closure of our post office.

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HR 630 would:

- Recalculate and restore retirement annuity obligations of the United States Postal Service (USPS);
- Eliminate the requirement that the USPS pre-fund the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, place restrictions on the closure of postal facilities;
- Create incentives for USPS innovations;
- Maintain levels of postal service.

In conclusion, the Berkeley City Council and its residents appreciate any and all of your support in saving our local main post office and helping remove this onerous burden placed on USPS.

Sincerely,  
The Berkeley City Council

Dear Senator Dianne Feinstein,

The city of Berkeley urges you to co-sponsor SB 316. Last month the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced that it had decided to go ahead and move forward with the sale of the Downtown Berkeley Main Post Office despite strong opposition from Berkeley residents and the City Council. We understand that Berkeley is not unique in its opposition to the closure of our post office.

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SB 316 would:

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Sincerely,  
The Berkeley City Council

Dear Senator Barbara Boxer,

The city of Berkeley urges you to co-sponsor SB 316. Last month the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced that it had decided to go ahead and move forward with the sale of the Downtown Berkeley Main Post Office despite strong opposition from Berkeley residents and the City Council. We understand that Berkeley is not unique in its opposition to the closure of our post office.

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