



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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General Gordon R. Sullivan
United States Army (Ret.)
President

20 November 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Boehner:

On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to urge you to oppose passage of any postal reform bill that includes Senate Amendment 2060 to S. 179, The 21st Century Postal Reform Act.

Amendment 2060 addresses issues unrelated to postal solvency and would severely restrict government employees from attending meetings and conferences held by private sector organizations. Intended to improve accountability and financial reporting for government-sponsored meetings, the amendment has unintentionally broad application to non-governmental meetings as well and would have a chilling effect on government employees' participation in non-governmental meetings and conferences.

Our association hosts multiple events each year. The dialogue that occurs at such meetings between government and the private sector is essential to the development of informed policymaking. In particular, dialogue at AUSA symposia allows the armed services to explain their needs to industry and allows industry to provide insights and new ideas that are vital in an era of constrained resources.

The dangers of government operating in a vacuum – with fewer opportunities to learn and exchange information with private industry in a conference or symposium setting – are too great to ignore. Therefore, we urge the Congress, when addressing postal reform, to remove Amendment 2060 from any final legislative solution.

Sincerely,



GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired

U.S. Representatives: The House Oversight & Government Reform Committee (Full Committee), John Boehner, Nancy Pelosi

U.S. Senate: The Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee (Full Committee), Harry Reid, Mitch McConnell & Mark Warner