COMMENTS OF THE NEWS/MEDIA ALLIANCE
(January 18, 2024)

The News/Media Alliance (“N/MA”)\(^1\) respectfully submits these comments on the Postal Service’s proposal to change the methodology for calculating rural carrier attributable costs.\(^2\) Rural carriers are a vital part of the national postal system and many N/MA members rely on them to deliver their publications.

The Postal Service proposes to update the rural carrier costing methodology by using data from its new Rural Route Evaluated Compensation System (“RRECS”), which it began using last year as the basis for compensating rural carriers. The RRECS replaces the previous system, which the Postal Service and Commission have used to develop the current methodology. The Postal Service’s petition explains why using the RRECS system will align costing with the new method for compensating rural carriers and ensure that these costs are distributed based upon the current mail mix.

N/MA supports the use of data from the RRECS system to calculate rural carrier attributable costs. The current methodology is out of date. Using RRECS data is both

\(^1\) N/MA is the leading voice for the news and magazine media industries that collectively generate more than $40 billion in annual revenue.

appropriate and should rectify the current overstatement of rural carrier costs incurred for Periodicals.

The News/Media Alliance respectfully urges the Commission to approve Proposal Eight.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NEWS/MEDIA ALLIANCE

By: William B. Baker
   William B. Baker
   POTOMAC LAW GROUP, PLLC
   1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
   Suite 1025
   Washington, DC 20006
   Telephone: (571) 317-1922
   E-Mail: wbaker@potomaclaw.com