

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

PERIODIC REPORTING  
(PROPOSAL EIGHT)

Docket No. RM2024-2

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

The News/Media Alliance (“N/MA”)<sup>1</sup> respectfully submits these comments on the Postal Service’s proposal to change the methodology for calculating rural carrier attributable costs.<sup>2</sup> 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 The current methodology is out of date.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

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

<sup>2</sup> *Petition of the United States Postal Service for the Initiation of a Proceeding To Consider Proposed Changes in Analytical Principles (Proposal Eight)* (Nov. 21, 2023).

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

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