

Postal Service shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all.”

Many do not realize that the Post Office is already in the process of phasing out door delivery service, the heart of its customer experience.

And that if some in Congress had their way it would be eliminated entirely!

In my home state of California, residents in newly planned communities are already witnessing the end of traditional mail delivery.

Instead, residents are being forced to resort to so-called cluster boxes—centralized curbside locations many of which are in unsecluded locations and poorly maintained.

Just last month local residents from a community meeting in my district adopted an official neighborhood resolution calling on Congress to address this pressing issue.

I have heard stories from dozens of my constituents about cluster boxes being stolen or damaged and having to wait months to raise enough money to replace them.

Americans have benefited from door delivery service ever since the time of the Civil War.

But now some in Congress, in a short-sighted attempt to cut costs, are pushing through a radical overhaul of the Post Office without even considering the consequences.

Studies have shown that in today’s digital age it is people with disabilities and the elderly that rely most on postal mail more, especially for prescription medicine.

Yes it is these very groups that would most be hurt by the sudden forced adoption of centralized cluster boxes.

And businesses all across the country, especially startups will be forced to close up shop since there will be no way to guarantee the security of their delivery.

All this just for short term cost cutting—which will do nothing to address the long term solvency of the Post Office.

And we already know that nobody wants these changes. In 2013, USPS offered voluntary cluster box conversions to businesses and only .8 percent signed up.

What business could survive by constantly looking for ways to reduce customer satisfaction?

Or by finding ways to devalue the very service, door delivery, it is known for?

But that is what the proponents of such radical postal reform efforts have in mind.

Furthermore, such changes will end the equal mail delivery system we have now for everyone.

Forced adoption of cluster boxes and a “delivery tax”, whereby only the wealthy will have access to door delivery, will create a two-tiered system breaking the fundamental unity that has always been central to the Post Office’s mission.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to help preserve door delivery for all.

SUPPORTING THE INCREASED DIALOGUE BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the 40th

anniversary of the division of Cyprus, and to encourage a final settlement that makes possible a reunited island and a shared, peaceful and prosperous future for all Cypriots.

Over time, members of this House have delivered, and will deliver, statements denouncing Cyprus’ status quo, while placing all responsibility of it with Turkey and its actions in 1974. It is scarcely noted that in 1963, as a result of ethnic tension, Turkish Cypriots were compelled to leave the joint institutions of the Republic of Cyprus. This hostile environment for the Turkish Cypriots continued and in 1974, the Cypriot National Guard, supported by Greece’s military junta, launched a coup to secure enosis—or unification—with Greece. Following the coup, animosity towards Turkish Cypriots increased and the Cyprus that was once unified, became an environment where the Turkish Cypriots no longer felt safe nor welcome in their home country. Turkey defends it was within its rights to protect the population as a guarantor power under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee.

Each year, we hear from one side that a final settlement can be achieved once Turkey withdraws its forces from the island. The Turkish government has previously stated time and again its desire for a final settlement that protects the rights and freedoms of both communities, and will allow Turkish troops to return home. Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan called again this week for a political settlement based on mutual consensus and the political equality of both communities. Turkish Cypriots demonstrated their desire for the reunification of the island through their support—a decade ago—of the Annan Plan, which contained drastic compromises for both communities, yet was rejected by the Greek Cypriot community. The continuing isolation of Turkish Cypriots from the international community in the ten years since while Greek Cypriots, as the Republic of Cyprus, utilize EU membership and the global flows of commerce, is an imbalance that must be redressed.

The only solution to this imbalance, and the status quo in total, is a comprehensive agreement where the rights and equality of both communities are recognized, respected, and maintained. Both parties will have to give, if common ground is to be secured. I call upon both sides to continue their efforts on this front, and express my hopes that the Administration do everything within its power to support such a process.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE KEVIN BURNHAM OF THE SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on July 25th, the Springfield, Massachusetts, Police Department said farewell to their longest serving officer when Kevin Burnham retired after 43 years and two months on the job. A highly respected professional, a popular colleague, and a dear friend to everyone on the force, Kevin relinquished his Senior Officer badge last week to Ruben Borrero following a time-honored tradition. For the first time since 1971, Detective

Burnham would not be patrolling the streets of the city he loves.

Ask anyone in the Department who their favorite co-worker was, and the reply would likely be Kevin Burnham. They admired his dedication, strength and courage. They enjoyed his sense of humor and the laughter that seemed to follow him everywhere. And his loyalty was unquestioned. At the end of the day, Kevin looked upon the Springfield Police Department as a band of brothers and sisters. To him, the force was a family working together to make our city a better place to live, work and raise our children.

From his early days as a rookie, it was obvious that Kevin was born to be a cop. He had the street smarts necessary to be effective in law enforcement, but he also had compassion.

Those two qualities were the reasons his career was so successful. Whether it was becoming one of the first detectives to work on the Narcotics Bureau, his service in both the Uniform Division and the Crime Prevention Bureau, or the responsibility that came with the job of Evidence Officer, Kevin performed each task exceptionally. He was honest and trustworthy and his fellow officers knew he had their back.

Being a Police Officer always comes with risks. And two years ago, one of his closest friends, Officer Kevin Ambrose, was killed in the line of duty. To Kevin Burnham, it was the lowest of low points. But with his trademark integrity and character, he led the funeral procession for his fallen friend along with nearly one thousand law enforcement officers from across the country. He helped turn a sad day into a touching tribute to a lost comrade. That’s the kind of person he is.

Kevin and Barbara Burnham have been great friends of mine for many years. They are good people and great fun. As Kevin begins his well-deserved retirement, I want to wish him nothing but the very best. And on behalf of the United States of America, it gives me personal satisfaction to congratulate him on an extraordinary career serving and protecting the citizens of Springfield. Well done Detective Burnham!

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN’S POLICIES

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, as everyone in this Chamber knows, Russia has been conducting itself in a manner that is irresponsible and demands accountability. Over the past several months we have witnessed President Vladimir Putin’s ruthless actions in Crimea and now Eastern Ukraine that has prompted a series of economic sanctions that are being escalated as he continues to display a doctrine of muscular nationalism amid the growing concerns in Europe and the U. S.

This past week, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague announced a historic ruling that the Russian Federation had violated the Energy Charter Treaty when it expropriated the assets of the Yukos Oil Company after fabricating tax charges and put its founder and chairman, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, in prison. Mr. Khodorkovsky’s former holding