Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District released the following statement today following the U.S. Postal Service's announcement that it plans to stop delivering letters and other first-class mail on Saturdays, beginning in August.

"Post offices are a staple of our rural communities and six-day service is a necessary service for New Mexicans to communicate, pay bills, and receive important documents. The U.S. Postal Service's financial challenges have been no secret, yet House Republicans for too long have failed to take action on meaningful reform that protects six-day delivery and places the Postal Service on firmer financial footing.

"Once again we are facing a manufactured crisis that is a result of kicking the can down the road. If earlier warnings from the Postal Service were not enough to spur action, I hope that today's announcement will encourage the House to finally move forward with legislation to address the challenges facing USPS.

"In 2006, Congress mandated that USPS prefund its retiree health care benefits, unlike any other private entity in the country, resulting in a significant strain on USPS's budget and requiring billions of dollars be set aside that in some cases will not be paid out for up to 75 years. Addressing this mandate would save money take an important step toward strengthening USPS."

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