

## Picket to Protect Good Jobs for New Jerseyans

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Congressman Rothman Joins the Picket Line

Rothman and Pascrell Rally to Oppose the Contracting Out of Mail Delivery

Rothman and NALC union members wave signs telling the Bush Administration to "Stop Contracting Our Letter Carrier Jobs" and "Protect the Sanctity of the Mail." Throughout the day, Rothman also joined in chants of "Hey, Ho! Contracting Out Has Got to Go!"

(Paterson, NJ)—As the Bush Administration moves to outsource mail delivery to the lowest bidder, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) joined fellow North Jersey Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-Paterson) and over 500 letter carriers on Sunday, July 1st to picket against the contracting out of postal service jobs.

"The outsourcing of your jobs is yet another example of the Bush Administration's assault on working men and women -- yet another attempt to undermine one of the most effective and productive unionized federal services around," Rothman told the crowd of letter carriers, many in uniform and all union members, who had gathered outside the Paterson Post Office at 194 Ward Street.

Currently, the bulk of the work carried out by the United States Postal Service (USPS) is done by career letter carriers who have undergone background checks and take pride in their jobs thanks to good wages and benefits negotiated by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) union.

However, to cut costs, the Postmaster General—a Bush political appointee who oversees USPS operations and answers to the Bush Administration—is trying to expand the number of low-wage non-union employees hired. These non-union contractors are being hired instead of union letter carriers to deliver mail on new routes that develop as communities in suburban and urban areas grow.

"By outsourcing new letter carrier jobs, Bush and Cheney know that they can get people to do the work without paying them any benefits—no insurance, no hospitalization, no leave, no retirement, nothing. But what happens when we contract out good mail delivery jobs and turn them into dead-end jobs for the lowest bidders? Do we really want these people, who have no guarantee of a good future, to have access to everyone's credit card bills, checks, and other personal correspondence? Do we want these private contractors delivering our daily mail in our precious neighborhoods where our children and seniors live? It's an extremely dangerous scenario," explained Rothman.

Congressman Rothman, who represents letter carriers in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties, has co-sponsored H.Res.282, a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives that says the USPS should discontinue the practice of contracting out mail delivery services. The legislation was introduced by fellow New Jersey Representative Albio Sires (D-

West New York).

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