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January 3, 2012

Thank you for contacting me to express your views regarding H.R. 2309, the Postal Reform Act of 2011.

As you know, the United States Postal Service (USPS) is currently facing a budget shortfall. To close the gap, the Postal Reform Act would shift service to a five-day delivery schedule, provide for additional borrowing authority, and create a commission on Postal Reorganization to recommend closures and consolidations to Congress. Of particular concern to me, this bill would also create a new "Solvency Authority" with the power to unilaterally reject, modify, or terminate existing collective bargaining agreements with Postal Service workers — a continuation of the sustained attack on public workers across the country.

While this bill may partially address the Postal Service's budget shortfall, there are other ways to do so without dramatically affecting USPS services and undermining workers' rights. The Postal Service is indeed facing financial challenges, but independent actuarial studies have shown that the primary challenge is the fact that the USPS has overfunded its Civil Service Retirement Fund (CSRS) by \$50 to \$75 billion and the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) by an estimated \$6.9 billion. These overpayments are required by law and, along with declining mail volumes and a shift to email, it is this situation — not the collective bargaining rights of Postal Service employees — that has contributed to the USPS' cash shortages.

I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 1351, the United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011, because it would correct this pension account overfunding problem by using updated methodology, and would allow the agency to use any surplus to meet its retiree funding obligations.

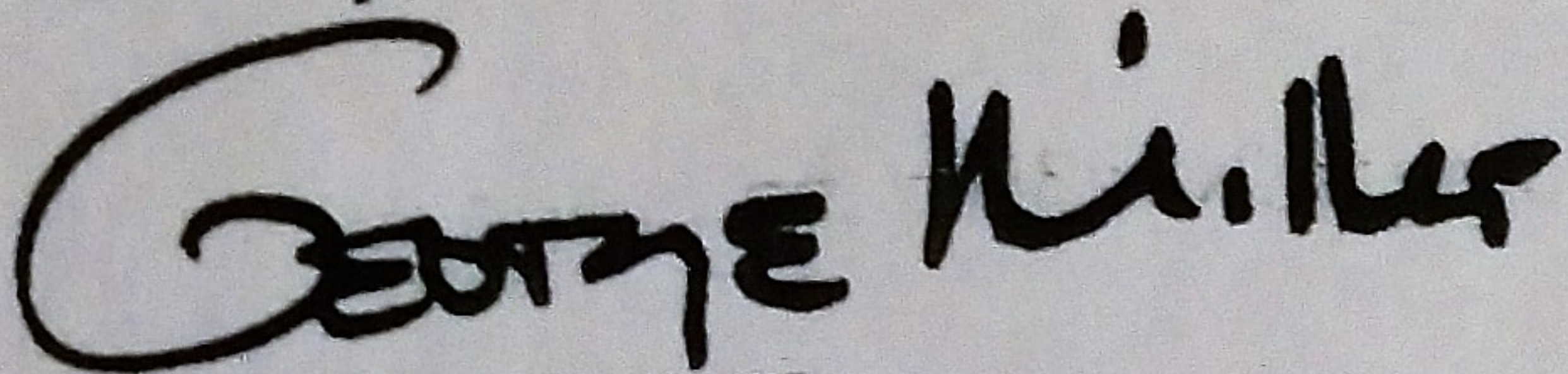
I share your concerns over the Postal Services' financial troubles, and will support responsible legislation designed to return the agency to fiscal stability without stripping workers of their benefits or their rights to collective bargaining. During the previous Congress I co-sponsored H.R. 22, the United States Postal Service Financial Relief Act, which was designed to significantly reduce the Postal Service's underlying financial issues.

You can be sure that I will keep your views in mind as Congress continues to work on this

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important issue, and I will continue to support efforts to help the United States Postal Service get back on track to fiscal solvency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "G" at the beginning.

GEORGE MILLER

Member Of Congress, 7th District

P.S. Keep up with the latest news from Washington at www.georgemiller.house.gov and www.facebook.com/repgeorgemiller.