

# UPDATE

April 13, 2018

## **Trump Appoints Task Force to Review USPS Operations and Finances**

President Trump yesterday issued an executive order establishing a task force to conduct a "thorough evaluation" of the operations and finances of the United States Postal Service and to develop recommendations for administrative and legislative reforms. The text of the executive order is [here](#).

The President directed the Task Force, to be chaired by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, to report back to the President with its findings and recommendations by August 10.

The Task Force, according to the terms of the executive order, is to study:

- the expansion and pricing of the package delivery market and the USPS's role in competitive markets;
- the decline in mail volume and its implications for USPS self-financing and the USPS monopoly over letter delivery and mailboxes;
- the definition of the "universal service obligation" in light of changes in technology, e-commerce, marketing practices, and customer needs;
- the USPS role in the U.S. economy and in rural areas, communities, and small towns; and
- the state of the USPS business model, workforce, operations, costs, and pricing.

The Task Force membership will include the Treasury Secretary (Steven Mnuchin), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (Mick Mulvaney), the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Jeffrey Pon) and other agency heads as determined by Secretary Mnuchin. While the executive order directs the Task Force to consult with the Postmaster General and the Chair of the Postal Regulatory Commission, those officials were not named to the Task Force.

The President's executive order comes on the heels of twitter-communicated complaints by the President about Amazon-negotiated delivery arrangements with the Postal Service. The order directs the Commission "to consider the views of the USPS workforce; commercial, non-profit, and residential users of the USPS services; and competitors in the marketplace."

NAPS President Brian Wagner said, "We are hopeful that the President's actions will stimulate the kinds of reforms that improve and sustain the operations of the Postal Service without impeding on the quality of service as constitutionally mandated to all Americans. NAPS will monitor and seek every opportunity to provide perspective from the operational front line of the organization."