

NPPC Applauds Senate Approval S. 662

NPPC applauded the passage of S. 662 by the Senate, and praised Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Susan Collins and Senator Tom Carper, prime sponsors of this bipartisan bill. The procedure was through unanimous consent, ending a seven-month stalemate over whether to have a “fair and equitable” rate schedule as an “objective” of setting up a “modern ratesetting system.”

Senators Collins and Carper have been diligent, creative and dogged in their pursuit of this bill. Senator Kit Bond, who advocated the “fair and equitable” issue also deserves praise for coming to an agreement with Sens. Collins and Carper on a formulation involving a “just and reasonable” schedule, which permitted the logjam to break.

The mailing community in general, the Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service, several of the postal labor and management associations, and active NPPC members, all deserve commendation for their persistent and patient work in reaching this milestone on the road to postal reform.

Now comes the hard part, of course. A conference committee will convene in the coming weeks to reconcile differences between HR 22 and S. 662, and deal with a White House that has very strong views on a number of provisions in the bill. The Postal Service also has its concerns. While this will be complicated and difficult, the proponents of the bills on and off the Hill plan to bring the same creativity and determination to this phase of the legislative process. Hopefully, that will be enough for a constructive postal reform bill to emerge.

For now, briefly enjoy this achievement. Before long, your help may be needed again.