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[Jared Polis On Ending The Postal Service Monopoly](#)

Posted by [Mike Krause](#) on Dec 23 2010 | [Government Largess](#), [PPC](#)

The Cato Institute's really impressive "[Downsizing the Federal Government](#)" project includes, among many other things, a section on [privatizing](#) the U.S. Postal Service. From the report:

The USPS is in deep financial trouble as a result of declining mail volume, bloated operating expenses, a costly and inflexible unionized workforce, and constant congressional meddling. At the same time, electronic communications and other technological advances are making physical mail delivery less relevant.

America's postal system needs a radical overhaul. This essay discusses the problems of the USPS and looks at some recent postal reforms abroad. It concludes that taxpayers, consumers, and the broader economy would stand to gain with reforms to privatize the USPS and open U.S. mail delivery up to competition.

But it's not just the libertarians at Cato who think the USPS needs some market-based reforms. Writing for the [Independence Institute](#) back in 2001, Colorado Congressman Jared Polis [made the case for](#) "Privatizing and eliminating the monopoly of the United States Postal Service," warning of its ongoing slide into irrelevancy:

We as a society have invested heavily in our postal service, and it would be a great shame to write off the hard work of the men and women who built and run USPS. Unless we unshackle USPS and allow it to leverage its infrastructure effectively as a normal privately owned company, then USPS will sadly fade away as it becomes increasingly irrelevant in the marketplace, destroying an infrastructure and logistical system that could otherwise be leveraged to provide great benefit and causing even more harm in its regulation-casting death throes.

Whole thing [here](#).

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