

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING POSTAL RATE INCREASES
FOR SMALL CIRCULATION PUBLICATIONS**

- WHEREAS**, In March of 2007, the Board of Governors for the United States Postal Service ratified a new rate structure for periodicals that dramatically raised the postal costs for small circulation publications by 15-40% as of July 15, 2007; and
- WHEREAS**, Many of these publications operate on the edge of financial viability already and the rate increase has placed in jeopardy the future of these types of magazines; and
- WHEREAS**, These magazines of politics and culture are the seedbed of American political discourse, bringing a wide variety of perspectives before the polity and expanding the range of debate available in the mainstream media; and
- WHEREAS**, The growing concentration of media ownership has a negative impact on the diversity of ideas available to the public, thus making these small circulation publications more valuable than ever to a healthy and open exchange of information and ideas; and
- WHEREAS**, The American Library Association (ALA) *Library Bill of Rights*, a statement rooted in the First Amendment, affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas and that they should “provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues;” and
- WHEREAS**, ALA supports laws and regulations that promote and preserve equitable and affordable acquisition, distribution, and transmittal costs of publications so that libraries can afford to provide public access to a diversity of viewpoints essential to an informed citizenry and a robust marketplace of ideas; and
- WHEREAS**, Libraries may be forced to cancel many small circulation publications because of the high cost of recent postal rate increases, resulting in fewer of these publications being available through libraries and undermining their ability to ensure “the widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources” (Associated Press v. United States, 326 U.S. 1,20 [1945]); now, therefore, be it

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- RESOLVED**, That the American Library Association calls upon Congress to support the democratic value of promoting a wide diversity of speech by redressing the dramatic rate increases of 2007 and passing legislation to protect against future disproportionate rate increases.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Wednesday, January 16, 2008
In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Michael Fiels', written in a cursive style.

Keith Michael Fiels
ALA Executive Director
and Secretary to the ALA Council