What's Wrong With This Picture?

The Postal Service and Staples have opened "postal counters" at more than 80 Staples stores. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe is touting the deal as a way to expand access to postal services and plans to set up counters in all of Staples' 1,536 stores. If the deal is allowed to continue, other big retail chains are sure to set up "post offices" in their stores.

So, what's wrong with this picture?

Staples employees – not postal workers – are working the counters. They earn about $18,000 per year.

Staples favors the deal because they think the postal counters will bring more customers into their struggling stores. Postal management likes the deal because they get a lot of almost-full-service retail outlets without having to pay our salaries or benefits.

The APWU supports increasing access to postal services, but we insist the work must be performed by postal workers. We're calling on the USPS and Staples to staff the counters with postal employees.

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe denies this scheme is privatization. But what else could it be?

Taking the work of the *public* U.S. Postal Service and turning it over to a *private*, *for-profit* business like Staples *is* privatization. Taking living-wage USPS jobs and replacing them with low-wage, high-turnover jobs like the ones Staples offers *is* privatization.

Before we were hired, we had to pass a background check and take an oath of office. We are accountable to the American people. The big retail chains that want to take our work – and our jobs – can't make that claim. They're in business to make a buck and their decisions will be driven by the bottom line, not by what's in the best interest of the people.

If the Postmaster General gets away with the Staples deal, it won't be long before retail is completely contracted out. Mail processing will soon follow, and Motor Vehicle and Maintenance Craft work won't be far behind.

So, are you ready to join the fight?

To get started, sign the online petition at *www.StopStaples.com* or text POSTAL to 91990.

APWU
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO