



Via E-Mail [[semipostal@usps.gov](mailto:semipostal@usps.gov)]

November 7, 2022

Mr. William Gicker  
Director -- Office of Stamp Services  
Semipostal Discretionary Program  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
Washington, D.C. 20260-3501

Dear Mr. Gicker:

On behalf of the Lexington Institute and the vast number of inspired Americans strongly supporting Ukraine's tenacious fight for freedom, I respectfully request that the U.S. Postal Service issue a Ukraine semipostal stamp.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the stamp would go to the U.S. Department of State's Agency for International Development (USAID), which would distribute the funds for humanitarian assistance and the rebuilding of Ukraine's postal infrastructure.

Recipients will include [Ukrposhta](#), Ukraine's postal service that already has been working with USAID. Since the war began, Ukrposhta, Ukraine's second largest employer, has played a pivotal role in continuing to provide basic postal services to the war-torn country, particularly to the elderly and the displaced.

Ukrposhta delivers pension checks to veterans who fought the Nazis in World War II and now live alone with no other source of income. It also gets food and medicine to the mothers who are caring for their children while their husbands risk their lives fighting the Russians.

And it does so with many of its postal workers laboring in facilities without heat or electricity, dealing with formidable, tedious, and life-threatening challenges. And when Ukrposhta's workers leave those facilities, they often face bullets, missiles, and dilapidated roads and other infrastructure.

Ukrposhta has delivered humanitarian aid to the hardest hit areas of the country, particularly in the south and east. After Ukrainian troops liberate an area, Ukrposhta is right behind to reconnect Ukraine's liberated citizens with the rest of the country and help restore daily life.

Igor Smelyansky, Ukrposhta's chief executive officer, would be deeply appreciative of a U.S. Postal Service semipostal stamp. He is copied on this correspondence.

I understand that USAID's staff in Kiev has expressed support for this idea to Ukrposhta, Ukraine's Postal Service, and that this is being further discussed with USAID officials in Washington, D.C. It would be helpful if USPS could be available to answer any inquiries USAID may have on the semipostal stamp proposal. I anticipate that USAID will be willing to distribute funds from the program within Ukraine and that a formal letter indicating this will soon be issued.

More than [two dozen countries' postal services](#) have provided substantial assistance to Ukraine. Fifteen countries have already issued stamps to help Ukraine which can be seen [here](#). Canada [unveiled its stamp](#) on May 19.

The following text directly addresses the submission requirements and selection criteria for semipostal stamps in [Section 551.4 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#), pertaining to Title 39 for the Postal Service.

***The proposal must describe the cause and the purposes for which the funds would be used.***

While the direct financial beneficiaries of the program would be the Ukrainian people, the cause is the preservation of democracy and freedom. This is what Ukrainians are so valiantly fighting for and the ideals upon which America was founded.

Ukraine's cause in fighting for its own freedom and the preservation of its democracy, inures tremendous benefits to the United States. First, it reminds us how precious freedom and democracy are and how the quality of life itself depends on preserving freedom and democracy.

A Russian conquest of Ukraine would likely embolden its tyrannical leader to expand military operations elsewhere in Europe, sowing chaos around the world.

The Ukrainians have weakened, indeed hobbled, America's longstanding enemy. They have inspired other democracies to strengthen themselves militarily, so they are more secure. This also strengthens America.

We owe the Ukrainians an enormous debt of gratitude and assistance. It is in our national interest to do so.

The funds would be used for the following purposes:

- Humanitarian aid (food and medical supplies) for the Ukrainian people, particularly in the country's hardest hit regions of the war, the east and the south. Much, if not all this aid, will be delivered by Ukrposhta.
- Interim electricity generation for Ukrposhta postal facilities to ensure that pension payments, mail, and packages are distributed in as timely a manner as possible within Ukraine.

- Replacement of postal equipment and assistance with rebuilding hundreds of post offices destroyed by the Russians during the war.

***The proposal must demonstrate that the cause to be funded has broad national appeal, and that the cause is in the national public interest and furthers human welfare.***

While the overwhelmingly majority of Americans treasure the values of freedom and democracy that are the core of our national identity, and what Ukraine is defending, we are today a deeply and painfully divided country.

Yet, support for Ukraine crosses that chasm.

In remarks in Prague on October 24, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi was emphatic that support for Ukraine is “bipartisan and bicameral.” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has frequently stated the same.

In an October 20 article *The Washington Post* published, [Public support for Ukraine remains high in the U.S., survey shows](#), 60 percent of Americans even say they are willing to pay high energy costs to help Ukraine.

This is in line with a similar Reuters opinion poll. On October 5, [Reuters reported](#), “Nearly three-quarters of Americans say that the United States should continue to support Ukraine, despite Russian threats that it could use nuclear weapons to protect its territory.”

An [October 19 study](#) from The Chicago Council on Global Affairs found, “Nearly three-quarters of Americans support continuing economic (71%) and military (72%) aid to Ukraine, and 58 percent are willing to continue to support the country “as long as it takes” even if U.S. households will have to pay higher prices for gas and food.”

The mission of the U.S. Postal Service is to bind America together. That is a harder mission considering our current division. The widespread support for Ukraine, and a stamp saluting that, will be yet another contribution that the Postal Service can make to keep America connected by reminding us of our shared values.

### **Design Issues**

Pursuant to the criteria of Section 551.4, it is duly recognized that the U.S. Postal Service has the final decision on semipostal stamp design issues. Please know that Ukrposhta has designed numerous stamps that have inspired Ukrainians and is willing to share information in that regard.

For ready reference, samples of stamps that other countries have issued are available [here](#).

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I welcome any questions that you have and can be reached at 703-217-9452 (mobile) and [steidler@lexingtoninstitute.org](mailto:steidler@lexingtoninstitute.org).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Paul F. Steidler*

Paul F. Steidler  
Senior Fellow

cc: Postmaster General Louis DeJoy  
Samantha Power, Administrator, USAID  
Michael Elston, USPS (and for USPS Board of Governors)  
Commissioners with the Postal Regulatory Commission  
Judy de Torok, USPS  
Steve Monteith, USPS  
Jeff Adams, USPS  
Michael Plunkett, PostCom  
Igor Smelyansky, Ukrposhta  
Julia Pavlenko, Ukrposhta  
David Brown, U.S. Department of State  
Merrick Carey, Lexington Institute

## Appendix

**Exhibit I:** Stamps Issued by Other Countries in Support of Ukraine

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nPas\\_kY-kBrItHQDTQaVD5Qq1Bb-7c0d/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nPas_kY-kBrItHQDTQaVD5Qq1Bb-7c0d/view)

**Exhibit II:** Brief Overview of Destruction of Ukraine's Postal Facilities

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m7dByyHTYHWmLZvWf3\\_bp63erd\\_g4GUv/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m7dByyHTYHWmLZvWf3_bp63erd_g4GUv/view)

**Exhibit III:** Related Materials About Ukrposhta and Ukraine's Need for Assistance

*The Washington Post*

[Neither snow, nor sleet, nor war: Ukraine mail carriers carry on](#)

August 19, 2022

*Forbes*

[Volunteers Came Together Around The World To Save Ukraine With Aid: An Exemplary Illustration Of How It Was Done](#)

July 7, 2022

*New York Post* (with reference to related story in *The Times of London*)  
[Bombs can't stop Ukrainian postal workers from delivering](#)  
April 2, 2022

Numerous Illustrations of Ukrposhta's Work During the War  
[LinkedIn Page of Ukrposhta CEO Igor Smelyansky](#)  
February 24, 2022-Present

UPU members pass resolution on support for Ukraine  
[Resolution of the Universal Postal Union, Part of the United Nations](#)  
May 23, 2022

The National Interest (Op-Ed from the Lexington Institute)  
[Want to Help Ukraine? Support the Ukrposhta Postal Service](#)  
July 14, 2022