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## **IMAG Statement on U.S. Intention to Withdraw from the UPU**

Arlington, VA, October 19, 2018 —The International Mailers' Advisory Group (IMAG), an association representing the U.S. international mailing sector, released the following statement on the administration's decision to withdraw the United States from the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

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IMAG holds to the position that the United States should remain in the UPU, a 144-year old organization of which the United States was a founding member. The implications of a withdrawal go beyond the issue of terminal dues. The UPU sets standards for the global postal network, including for operations, automated payment systems, mailing and containerization, quality of service, and dangerous goods in the mail, among other things. IMAG members are concerned that export prices will increase, hurting U.S. exporters. But more importantly, the uncertainty around rates and operational changes have a dampening effect on exports as U.S. businesses will not know how to plan.

"U.S. exports under 70 lbs. are valued at billions of dollars a year. Leaving the UPU will certainly result in increased costs for exporters," said Adam Langston, President and CEO of Access Worldwide, and Immediate Past Chairman of IMAG.

Furthermore, the one-year timeline for the Postal Service and the State Department to negotiate bilateral or multilateral agreements with the rest of the world is extremely aggressive. It will put a strain on limited postal resources. The next UPU Congress in 2020, which is only a year from the administration's targeted withdrawal date, provides an opportunity to negotiate a solution that moves countries to self-declared rates.

Finally, withdrawing from the UPU could also prove harmful to the U.S.'s goal of collecting advance electronic data (AED) on all inbound shipments from foreign posts. Under the recently passed STOP Act, countries will need to provide 100% AED by the end of 2020. An efficient global standard must be developed to support effective data transfer among the 192 independent postal administrations and their respective and distinct customs authorities. IMAG believes the UPU system provides the best framework to achieve that standard.

### **About IMAG**

The International Mailers Advisory Group's core mission is to address barriers to the efficient flow of information and goods across borders. The association monitors developments worldwide to identify impediments and then works toward removing them to ensure smooth delivery of international mail and packages. IMAG represents a diverse community of consolidators, marketers, vendors and international mailing organizations.