

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2014

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Ander Crenshaw
Appropriations Subcommittee:
Financial Services and General Government
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member José Serrano
Appropriations Subcommittee:
Financial Services and General Government
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey, Subcommittee Chairman Crenshaw, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Serrano:

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is facing many serious challenges. While a number of reform proposals have been introduced in both the Senate and the House to tackle these problems over the past several years, we have yet to enact legislation. In the absence of Congressional compromise, the Postal Service has proposed more sweeping changes to its operations.

The Postmaster General has announced that the Postal Service will consolidate up to 82 more mail processing facilities and eliminate up to 15,000 more jobs in 2015. This wave of closures will directly impact 37 states across our nation, and more importantly, the citizens who count on their Postal Service to be reliable. At a time when our middle-class is disappearing, the loss of 15,000 good working-class jobs from the Postal Service will harm our local communities and economies.

The Postal Service has already consolidated 141 mail processing facilities since 2012. As the postal network has been weakened, service has suffered. Since the Postal Service slowed down the processing and delivery of first class mail over two years ago by revising its service standards, it has been more difficult for the American public and small businesses to receive mail in a timely manner. Slowing down mail delivery even further will especially hurt senior citizens on fixed incomes, small businesses, rural areas, and the economy.

To address this immediate problem, we respectfully request that you include language in an upcoming continuing resolution that would prevent the USPS from closing or consolidating any more area mail processing facilities during Fiscal Year 2015. We also respectfully request that you include such language in any omnibus appropriations package for Fiscal Year 2015 following the continuing resolution. In addition, we would ask that you include language to maintain and comply with service standards for First Class Mail and periodicals currently in place that became effective on July 1, 2012. This one-year moratorium will give Congress the time it needs to enact the comprehensive postal reforms that are necessary for the Postal Service to function effectively into the future.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Michael G. Grimm
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Michael G. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress