

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2015

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services  
and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Coons:

We respectfully request that you include language in the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations bill that would prevent the United States Postal Service (USPS) from closing or consolidating additional area mail processing facilities during Fiscal Year 2016. We also request that you include language to insist that USPS maintains and complies with service standards for First-Class Mail and periodicals effective on July 1, 2012.

As you are aware, USPS faces many serious challenges. A number of reform proposals have been introduced in both the Senate and House to address these challenges in previous years, but Congress has yet to enact legislation. In the interim, a one-year moratorium will provide Congress the time it needs to enact comprehensive postal reforms that will allow the Postal Service to run more efficiently.

Last year, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe announced that the Postal Service will consolidate up to 82 additional mail processing facilities and eliminate up to 15,000 more jobs in 2015. This will have a sweeping impact that directly affects 37 states across our nation, and, most importantly, millions of Americans who count on the reliability of their Postal Service. This comes at a time when our middle-class continues to struggle, and the loss of 15,000 good-paying Postal Service jobs does harm to our towns, our communities, and our economy at large.

Since 2012, the Postal Service has already consolidated 141 mail processing facilities. The result is a weakened network nationwide, which in turn causes countless delays for mail service delivery. The Postal Service revised its service standards over two years ago, which slowed its delivery of First-Class mail. Since then, it has been more difficult for the American public and small businesses to receive their mail in a timely manner. Slowing down mail delivery hurts America's senior citizens on fixed incomes, impacts the bottom line for small businesses, and dramatically affects the quality of life of rural Americans. This is simply unacceptable.

Without Congressional compromise, the Postal Service will continue to confront drastic changes to its operations, thereby slowing service to millions of Americans who rely on it.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical issue and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator



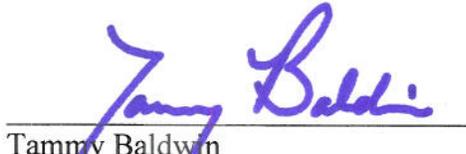
Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator