

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 4, 2016

Megan J. Brennan  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

The United States Postal Service (USPS) currently faces a grim long-term financial outlook. In November 2015, the Postal Service reported a net loss of \$5.1 billion for Fiscal Year 2015, marking the ninth year in a row that USPS ended its fiscal year in the red. These losses are driven by the long-term pension and healthcare liabilities. On the other side of the coin, USPS has posted operating profits over the past two years, \$1.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$1.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2015. This shows that under the right circumstances, stable fiscal footing can be returned to the Postal Service without taking on new areas of business that diverge from the agency's core mission.

In order to address many of the problems USPS currently faces, enactment of legislation by Congress is required. While several reform proposals have been introduced by members of both the House and Senate in this Congress and in the past, until this point, those efforts have stalled. In the absence of Congressional action on difficult issues, such as making the retiree health benefit system more affordable, USPS has taken it upon itself to find solutions to these annual operating deficits. However, in doing so, the Postal Services Network Rationalization Initiatives (NRI) have initiated sweeping changes to its operations, particularly plant closings and consolidations that have already occurred at 141 mail-processing centers across the United States and will affect dozens more.

While First-Class and Standard Mail has steadily declined over the past decade, eCommerce has fostered package delivery growth for USPS. The expansive delivery network the Postal Service possesses provides it an advantage and unique capability of delivering millions of packages the "last mile." Our constituents, many of whom are seniors, veterans, active voters and small business owners, depend upon reliable, timely service, whether it be traditional mail services or package delivery. As such, we find these closures and consolidations and the slowed mail delivery times that accompany them to be of great concern. More concerning is the fact that the Postal Service did not fully engage communities about the impacts of these changes and the USPS Office of Inspector General found that portions of the Area Mail Processing (AMP) feasibility studies were incomplete for Phase 2 of NRI.

The *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016* included the following language:

*On May 27, 2015, the Postal Service announced its decision to defer most of the mail processing plant consolidations scheduled to take place in summer 2015 as the final stage of its Network Rationalization Initiative. The Postal Service is encouraged to update the Area Mail Processing feasibility studies for these plants using the most recent available data in advance of implementing the proposed consolidations.*

We were extremely pleased to see the inclusion of this report language and request an update on what steps USPS has taken to carry out the Congressional direction included in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016*. In addition, please include an update of actions USPS intends to take this year regarding possible future consolidations or closures of the mail processing infrastructure. Please provide a response by March 17, 2016.

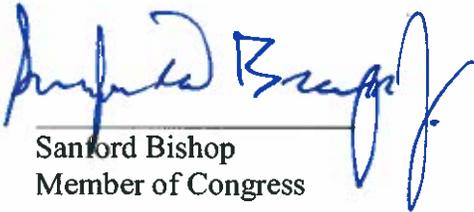
Sincerely,



Martha McSally  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop  
Member of Congress



Danny Davis  
Member of Congress



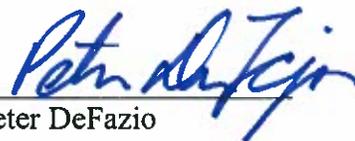
Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
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Jim Bridenstine  
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Peter DeFazio  
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G.K. Butterfield  
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Suzan DelBene  
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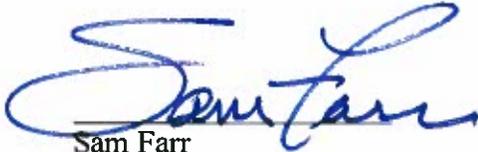
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
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Mike Kelly  
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Sam Farr  
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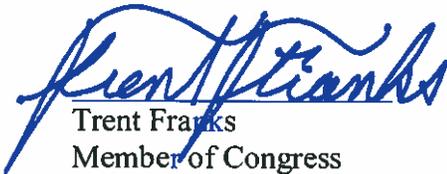
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Michael Fitzpatrick  
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John Larson  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



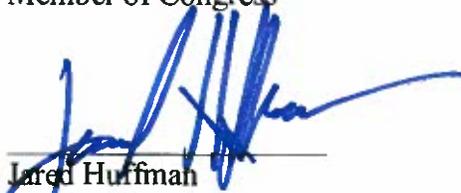
Bob Latta  
Member of Congress



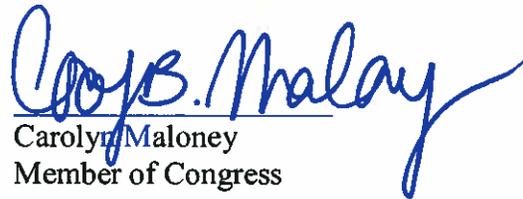
Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
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Jared Huffman  
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Carolyn Maloney  
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Marcy Kaptur  
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David McKinley  
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