

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

As you finalize the remaining FY24 appropriations bills, we write in strong support of including language to prevent the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from downsizing facilities and transferring operations out of states without robust and transparent considerations of the impacts to service delivery times, jobs, and local economies.

As part of its “Delivering for America” plan, USPS has been conducting Mail Processing Facility Reviews to assess the postal network. While USPS claims that these reviews will not result in facility closures or career employee layoffs, the results of USPS’s reviews push for ill-advised facility downsizings, and for moving some mail processing operations to out of state locations. For example, in Nevada, USPS announced intentions to downsize the Reno Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) and “transferring mail processing outgoing operations” from Reno, Nevada, to Sacramento, California. In its review, USPS does not provide information about the study on which it relied to reach this determination, nor does it provide any analysis on local impacts of partly moving mail processing completely outside of the State of Nevada. Currently, there are 59 postal locations, spanning 35 states, where a review is intended, in process, or recently completed, including the one in Nevada.

To prevent downsizing of mail facilities and moving some of the mail processing operations out of state without due consideration for the local impact to communities that rely on the essential services of USPS, we strongly encourage including language in the next FY24 appropriations package prohibiting further action until the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) issues an advisory opinion on the proposed facility changes. The following language would require the PRC to study outcomes under its advisory opinion process, which is focused on service impacts, before USPS can execute any operational changes, including transferring mail processing from Reno to Sacramento:

“Provided further, that the Postal Service shall not implement changes to its facilities and network, including consolidation or partial consolidation of processing or logistics

facilities, aggregation of processing, distribution, or delivery operations, and facility conversions to centralize operations, until the Postal Service submits a proposal regarding such changes to the Postal Regulatory Commission using the procedures under 39 U.S.C. 3661(b), providing the Commission any information and records necessary to issue an opinion, including any access to Postal Service facilities, and the Commission issues an opinion under 39 U.S.C. 3661(c), with issuance 180 business days after the proposal's submission.”

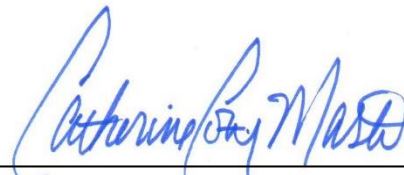
The PRC's advisory process requires USPS to submit a proposal to the PRC, which will then conduct a full public process to study the impacts on service and local communities. The Postal Service is essential to veterans, many of whom receive their prescriptions from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through the mail; for seniors receiving Social Security checks; the connectivity of rural communities; as well as many other Americans. As such, robust consideration is critical before making consequential, nationwide operational changes.

Thank you for your consideration, and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez-Masto
United States Senator