

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Megan J. Brennan
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W.
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Brennan,

First, we would like to recognize with congratulations your recent appointment to the position of United States Postmaster General. Second, we are writing to follow up on our recent meeting with the Deputy Postmaster General Ronald Stroman. The Oregon Congressional Delegation is committed to working with you both, so that the United States Postal Service's (USPS) achieves long-term financial viability while maintaining high service delivery standards in the state of Oregon.

We would like to express our concern over the ongoing plans to close mail processing facilities in the state of Oregon even as service delivery standards rapidly deteriorate. In short, the service delivery standards set by USPS are not adequately being met in our state. We have heard concerns from our constituents that mail delivery times, including for important prescriptions, are increasing. Further mail delays will impact Oregon families across the state who depend on the USPS for receiving their paychecks, mailing bills, and critical correspondence.

The USPS has already closed mail processing facilities in Salem, Klamath Falls, and Pendleton, with two more locations in Eugene/Springfield and Bend set to be consolidated later this year. If these mail processing facilities close, mail will have to flow through either Portland or Medford, even when their destination is in the same town it originated in. This causes delays in mail delivery, increases the amount of mail the Portland location must process, and forces mail carriers to cover larger distances and work longer hours. These plant closures will put new stress on the existing processing locations and potentially harm both Oregon businesses and residents alike, particularly in Eugene/Springfield, Bend and rural areas.

We understand that you are undertaking a review of decisions made by the previous Postmaster General regarding efforts to cut back on costs and streamline mail operations before making additional changes. We ask that you not move forward on the closure of the Bend or Eugene/Springfield mail processing facilities until you have thoroughly reviewed the additional impacts these closures will have on meeting USPS's mail service standards and can provide us with information on how you will be able to consistently meet these standards in Oregon. Additionally, we respectfully request that you address the following questions:

1. What is the analytic process USPS has used in Oregon to determine the impacts to postal operations including vote-by-mail programs and service delivery standards?
2. Oregon has over 50 local daily and weekly community newspapers delivered by mail. Has the USPS made any special provisions to deal with timely delivery or does a newspaper in Port Orford get sent to the Portland processing facility and then delivered back to the community of Port Orford?
3. What mail capacity exists now within Oregon? Please identify the origin and destination of the 350 million pieces of mail that go through the Eugene/Springfield facility every year and if these facilities close, how they will be repurposed; what capacity exists at the so-called "Mt. Hood" facility; and how the Salem processing facility has been repurposed.
4. How has the USPS evaluated the impact of processing plant closures on local infrastructure and surrounding communities prior to a decision to close or streamline mail processing operations? Please address any USPS plans to mitigate the increase in traffic and noise that accompanies consolidation of postal facilities. The Portland facility, in particular, is located in a busy urban neighborhood with limited access and increased truck traffic has caused gridlock and has become a nighttime noise problem for our constituents in downtown Portland.
5. What is the comparative impact to the reduction in mail processing and thereby service standards in Oregon versus other demographically (population size, mix of urban and rural, etc.) similar states?

We are committed to continuing to work with you and look forward to your reply in two weeks.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer
United States Representative



Suzanne Bonamici
United States Representative



Peter DeFazio
United States Representative



Kurt Schrader
United States Representative



Greg Walden
United States Representative