

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 14, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Tom Udall
Appropriations Subcommittee:
Financial Services and General
Government
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Mike Johanns
Appropriations Subcommittee:
Financial Services and General
Government
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Subcommittee Chairman Udall, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Johanns:

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-paying Postal Service jobs 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 delivery has suffered. Since the Postal Service slowed down the 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 hurt senior citizens on fixed incomes, small businesses and the entire economy.

To address this immediate problem, we respectfully request that you include language in any omnibus appropriations legislation or continuing resolution that would prevent the USPS from closing or consolidating any more area mail processing facilities during Fiscal Year 2015.

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In addition, we would ask that you include language to maintain and comply with service standards for First-Class Mail and periodicals 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,



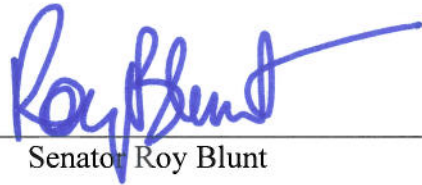
Senator Jon Tester



Senator Susan M. Collins



Senator Richard J. Durbin



Senator Roy Blunt



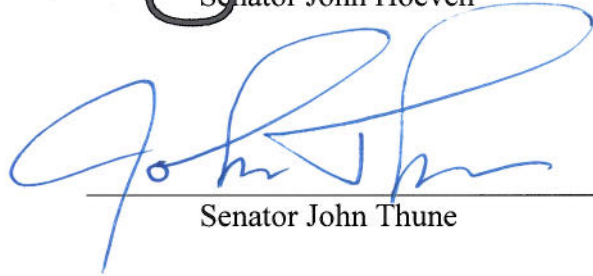
Senator Bernard Sanders



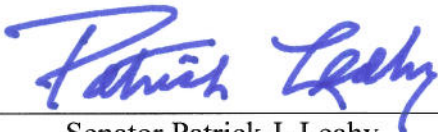
Senator John Hoeven



Senator Tammy Baldwin



Senator John Thune



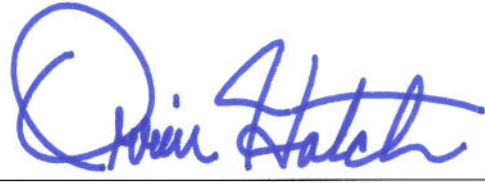
Senator Patrick J. Leahy



Senator James M. Inhofe



Senator Dianne Feinstein



Senator Orrin G. Hatch

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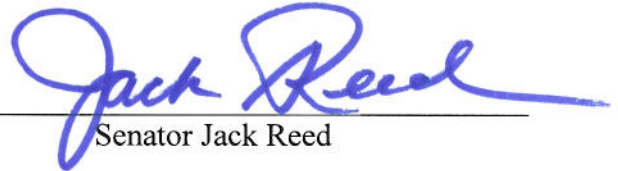
Senator Tom Harkin



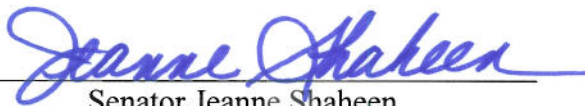
Senator Tim Johnson



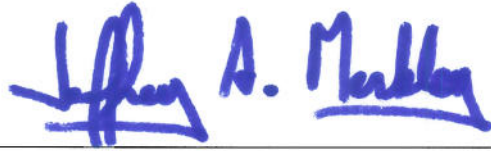
Senator Mary L. Landrieu




Senator Jack Reed



Senator Jeanne Shaheen



Senator Jeff Merkeley



Senator Claire McCaskill



Senator Al Franken



Senator Charles E. Schumer



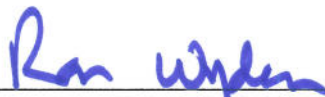
Senator Heidi Heitkamp



Senator Debbie Stabenow



Senator Sherrod Brown



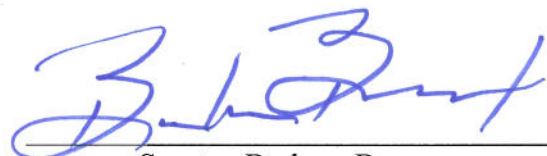
Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Carl Levin

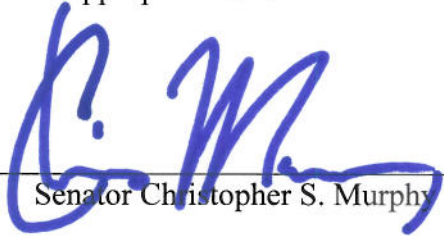


Senator Benjamin L. Cardin



Senator Barbara Boxer

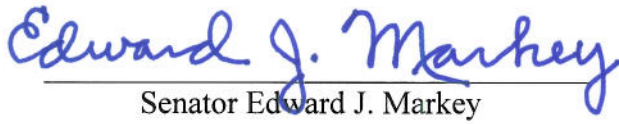
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Senator Christopher S. Murphy



Senator Richard Blumenthal



Senator Edward J. Markey



Senator Elizabeth Warren



Senator Amy Klobuchar



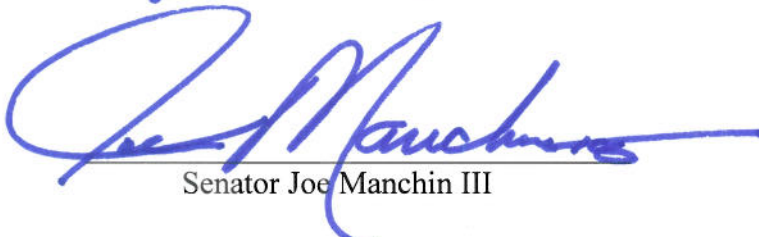
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



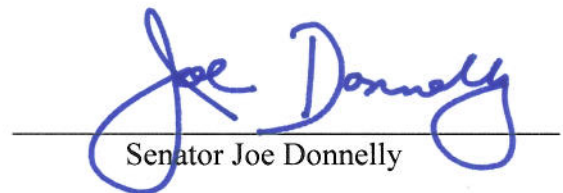
Senator Kay R. Hagan



Senator Brian Schatz



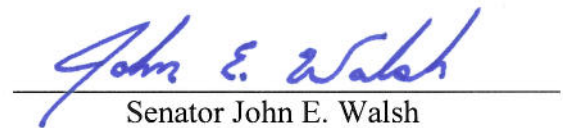
Senator Joe Manchin III



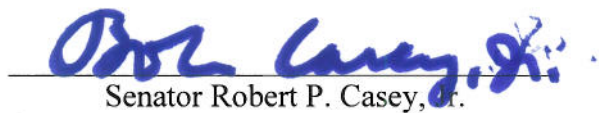
Senator Joe Donnelly



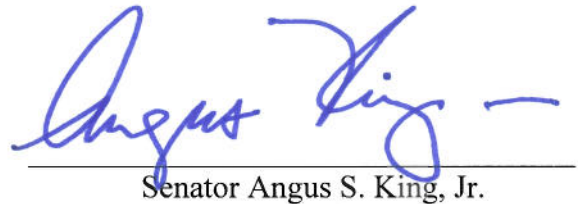
Senator Mark Udall



Senator John E. Walsh



Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Senator Angus S. King, Jr.

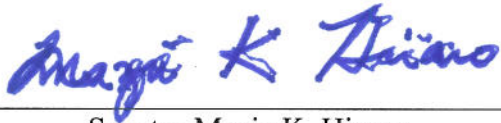


Senator Sheldon Whitehouse



Senator Martin Heinrich

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Senator Mazie K. Hirono



Senator Maria Cantwell



Senator Cory A. Booker



Senator Michael F. Bennet



Senator Robert Menendez



Senator Bill Nelson