

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 8, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Inouye, and Ranking Member Cochran:

Everyone understands that the United States Postal Service (USPS) is experiencing significant financial problems today and that changes need to be made as the USPS adjusts to a digital world.

To address this serious problem, Congress is in the midst of significantly reforming the postal service. Several bills have been introduced in the Senate and the House on this issue. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Postal Service Act, S.1789, by a vote of 9-1. The House is also moving forward with postal reform legislation.

While we may have very different views on how to financially improve the postal service, we all believe that democratically elected members of the Senate and the House have the responsibility to make significant changes to the postal service.

Unfortunately, we are concerned that the postal service may preempt Congress on this matter by closing or consolidating nearly 3,700 mostly rural post offices, over 250 mail processing facilities, and eliminating overnight delivery for first class mail before postal reform legislation is enacted. While some of these changes may be needed, we believe that it is very important to give Congress the opportunity to reform the postal service in a way that protects universal service while ensuring its financial viability for decades to come.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that you include language in the next appropriations to prevent the USPS from closing or consolidating area mail processing facilities or rural

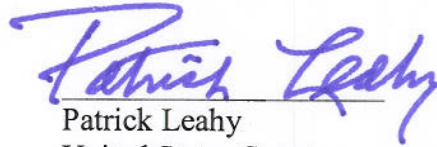
post offices for the next six months. This six month moratorium will give Congress the time needed to enact reforms necessary for the postal service to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

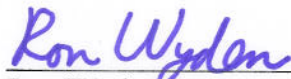
Sincerely,



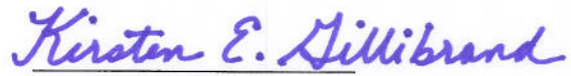
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



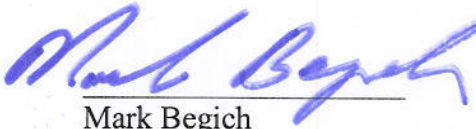
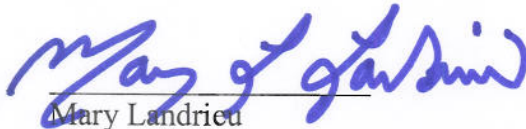
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

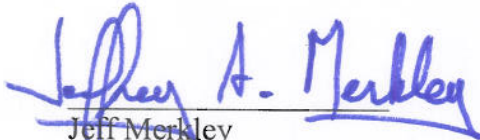


Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

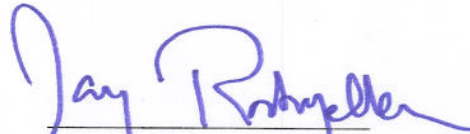


Mary Landrieu  
United States Senator

Mark Begich  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV  
United States Senator



Ben Nelson  
United States Senator

Tim Johnson  
United States Senator

Mark Udall

Mark Udall  
United States Senator

Michael Bennet

Michael Bennet  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Jon Tester

Jon Tester  
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill

Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator

Max Baucus

Max Baucus  
United States Senator

Tom Harkin

Tom Harkin  
United States Senator

Al Franken

Al Franken  
United States Senator

Tom Udare

John F. Kerry

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