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December 08, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Donahoe
Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently announced it would close roughly 252 of 500 mail processing centers. It also announced unprecedented cuts to first-class mail next spring that will slow delivery, and for the first time in 40 years, will eliminate the chance for stamped letters to arrive the next day. We strongly object to the decision to slow first class service and close processing centers.

We appreciate USPS's attempt to reduce costs but the USPS is an essential service for the public and reductions would come at the expense of people who regularly depend on these services. The changes may provide short-term relief, but ultimately it would be penny wise and pound foolish because it would push more businesses onto the Internet. Americans rely on the USPS and the access to services to buy stamps and send packages. The elderly and underserved communities have a tradition of using the USPS and many do not have access to a computer to use email or social media websites.

First-class mail in the United States typically takes one to two days to arrive, but the changes would lengthen that to three days. It would slow everything from check payments to Netflix's DVDs-by-mail, add costs to mail-order prescription drugs, and threaten the existence of newspapers and time-sensitive magazines delivered by postal carriers to underserved communities. A birthday card mailed first-class to a relative or friend could arrive a day or two late, if people don't plan ahead.

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As representatives of Congressional districts where our constituents depend on the services of the United States Postal Service, we strongly object to the decision to slow first class service and close processing centers.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Donald Payne
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson
Member of Congress

Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Heath Shuler
Member of Congress

William Owens
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Robert Brady
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Brad Miller
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress