

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chair
Financial Services and General Government
Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
Ranking Member
Financial Services and General Government
Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chair
Financial Services and General Government
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Ranking Member
Financial Services and General Government
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Van Hollen, Chair Womack, Ranking Member Hagerty, and Ranking Member Hoyer:

We write to express shared concern regarding the impacts of the recently released Mail Processing Facility Review (MPFR) recommending the downgrading of Processing and Distribution Centers (P&DC) in Oregon and Georgia to Local Processing Centers (LPC). To ensure impacted communities have sufficient time to meaningfully consider and participate in this process, we respectfully request the committee include the following language in any upcoming appropriations legislation:

Viz: At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___ (a) In General.— None of the funds by this Act or any other Act may be used by the United States Postal Service to convert a Processing and Distribution Center to a Local Processing Center.

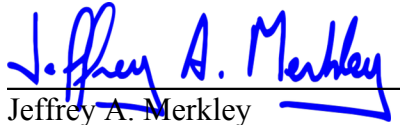
We applaud your ongoing commitment to serving every home and business in America with the highest service standards, and we are concerned that these changes will degrade service in America's rural areas and small towns. Shrinking processing facilities outside of the largest urban centers will undoubtedly lead to decreased service standards, slower delivery times and fewer career and non-career positions serving residents outside of the largest population centers in our states.

Over the past few decades, rural and small urban communities in our states and districts have seen their postal facilities consistently scaled down and consolidated with processing operations in highly populated areas. While we understand that the U.S. Postal Service is facing financial difficulties, we are concerned that converting P&DCs in suburban and more rural areas into LPCs could lead to service disruptions particularly impacting rural families and businesses.

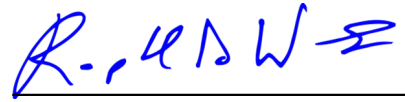
Thank you for your respective committees' strong support of the USPS in past years, and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

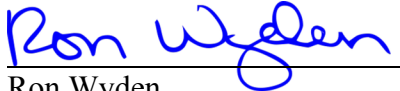
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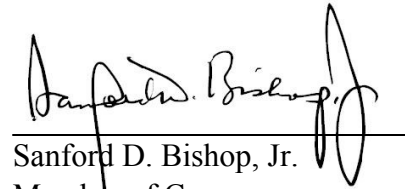
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator




Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

CC: United States Postmaster General Louis DeJoy

