

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2012

The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Mr. Donahoe:

We write to urge you to extend the May 15 moratorium on post office and mail processing facility closures until the Congress has completed action on postal reform legislation, including any action that would result in cuts to rural postal services such as cutting back hours at rural facilities. The recent Senate passage of the 21st Century Postal Service Act of 2012 (S. 1789) is evidence that Congress is moving toward putting the United States Postal Service (USPS) on a path to sustainability.

We understand that the USPS cannot sustain itself under its current system, and we agree it is up to Congress to act. There are, however, a number of cost saving provisions in the Senate bill that require consideration, including access to \$11 billion that USPS overpaid into federal retirement accounts. In addition, the bill would reduce the amount of money that USPS has to prefund for retiree health benefits by amortizing the costs over 40 years and re-calculating those costs more appropriately. Finally, the bill would allow the postal service to provide additional services, creating more opportunity for additional revenue. Without an extension of the May 15 moratorium, Congress will not be given the opportunity to fully consider these cost-saving provisions.

Furthermore, we also urge you to recognize the disastrous impact that the closings of Area Mail Processing Centers and other facilities across the country would have on local and national unemployment. The USPS is a major employer around the country and employs over 500,000 workers. With an unacceptably high unemployment rate, it would be particularly inopportune for the USPS to close facilities.

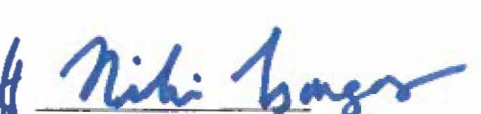
Again, we urge you to extend the May 15 moratorium to allow Congress time to finalize comprehensive postal reform legislation that would take meaningful steps to create a financially sound future for the USPS, while leaving intact the important services Americans rely on and expect. It is critically important the postal service not preempt Congressional action by unilaterally progressing with elimination of overnight delivery, allowing for major shutdowns across the country of mail processing facilities.

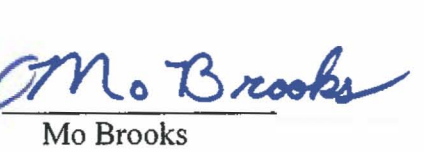
Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. We look forward to continuing our work to create a more stable fiscal future for the USPS while also upholding this essential service for our communities, state, and country.

Sincerely,


Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

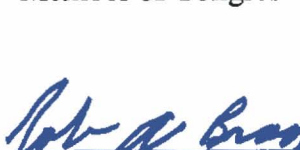

Bruce Braley
Member of Congress

 Mike McIntyre Member of Congress	 Michael Grimm Member of Congress	 Maxine Waters Member of Congress	 Niki Tsongas Member of Congress
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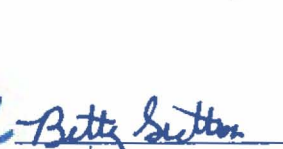
 Don Young Member of Congress	 Eddie Bernice Johnson Member of Congress	 Michael Michaud Member of Congress	 Mo Brooks Member of Congress
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 Dutch Ruppersberger Member of Congress	 Jerrold Nadler Member of Congress	 Grace Napolitano Member of Congress	 Gary Ackerman Member of Congress
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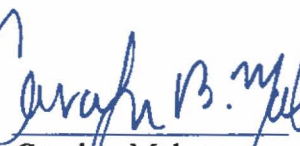
 Chellie Pingree Member of Congress	 Tim Holden Member of Congress	 David Price Member of Congress	 Ted Deutch Member of Congress
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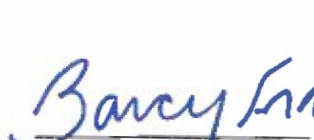
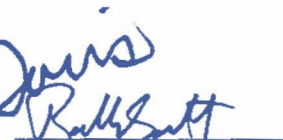
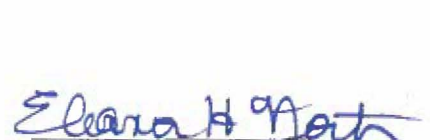
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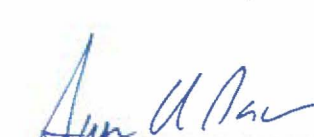
 Michael Capuano Member of Congress	 Ruben Hinojosa Member of Congress	 Barbara Lee Member of Congress	 Bobby Rush Member of Congress
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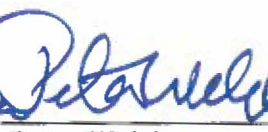
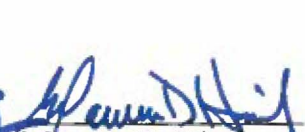
 Loretta Sanchez Member of Congress	 Eliot Engel Member of Congress	 Betty Sutton Member of Congress	 Christopher Murphy Member of Congress
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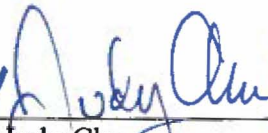
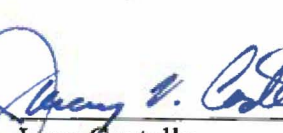
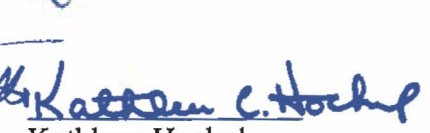
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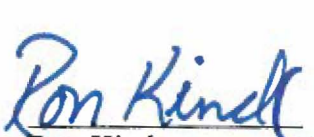
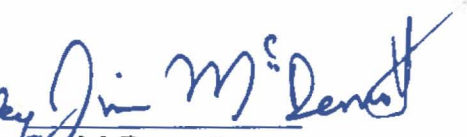
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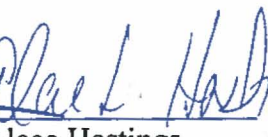
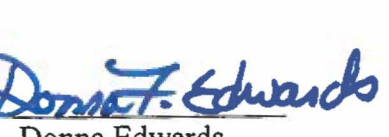
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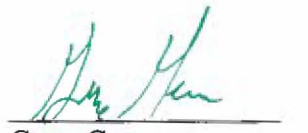
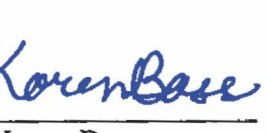
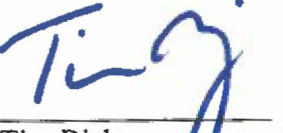
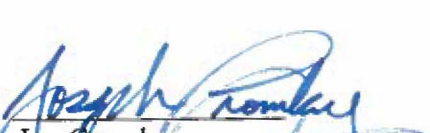
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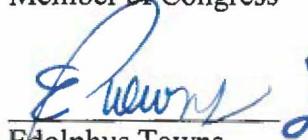
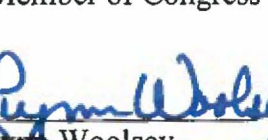
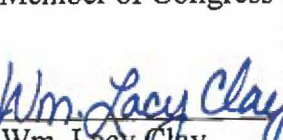
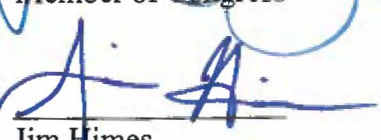
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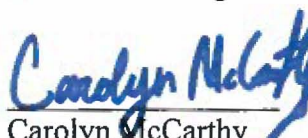
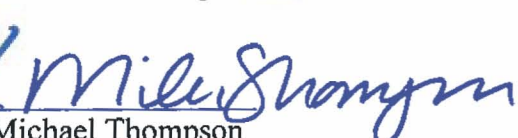
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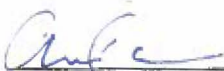
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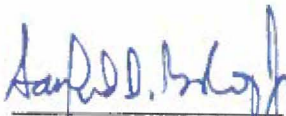
 Corrine Brown Member of Congress	 Alcee Hastings Member of Congress	 Jason Altmire Member of Congress	 Donna Edwards Member of Congress
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 Gene Green Member of Congress	 Karen Bass Member of Congress	 Tim Bishop Member of Congress	 Joe Crowley Member of Congress
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 Edolphus Towns Member of Congress	 Lynn Woolsey Member of Congress	 Wm. Lacy Clay Member of Congress	 Jim Himes Member of Congress
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 Carolyn McCarthy Member of Congress	 Michael Thompson Member of Congress
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André Carson
Member of Congress


Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress


Howard Berman
Member of Congress

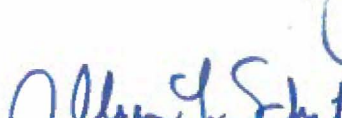

Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress


Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress

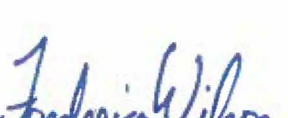

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Hank Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress


Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress


John Yarmuth
Member of Congress


Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

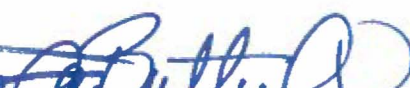

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress


Terri Sewell
Member of Congress


Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

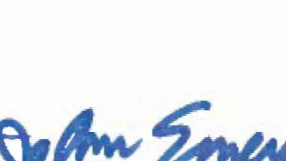

Norman Dicks
Member of Congress

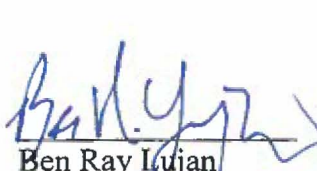
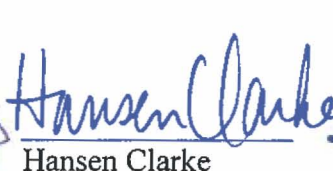
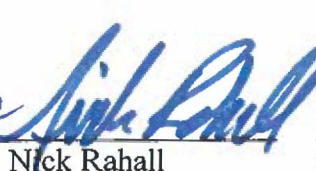

Mark Critz
Member of Congress

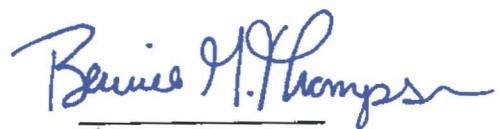

John Larson
Member of Congress


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress


Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

			
Ben Ray Lujan	Hansen Clarke	Nick Rahall	David Loebsack
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress


Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress