

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2012

Patrick R. Donahoe, Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Donahoe:

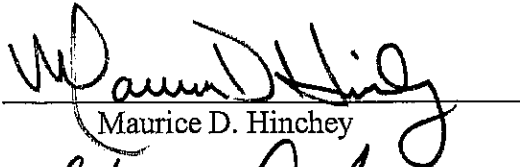
We understand that the United States Postal Service (USPS) is facing acute financial difficulties, and as a result, has made the decision to begin the process of closing thousands of postal facilities. We share your concern about the solvency of the USPS and its future as our nation's postal service.

Recently however, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) reviewed the Postal Service's Retail Access Optimization Initiative (RAOI), which is being used as the basis for the possible closure of more than 3,600 post offices and other retail facilities, and found serious flaws with the analysis that call into question the USPS's current consolidations plans. We share the concerns of the PRC, and ask for you to place a moratorium on the USPS's current discontinuance studies until the USPS resolves the numerous problems the PRC identified in the RAOI. These include:

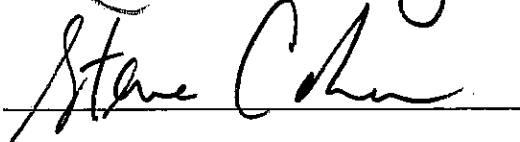
- Incomplete data for all Post Offices, branches and stations. Currently, the USPS does not have inclusive data for every individual office, branch or station, which makes it impossible to accurately calculate cost savings from proposed closures.
- Inaccurate representations of usage and revenues for all Post Offices, branches and stations. For example, revenue measurements do not include transactions such as post office box visits, exceptional dispatch for local periodicals, or alternate revenue transactions such as business mail or returns.
- Estimates of the distance between postal facilities that are undergoing a discontinuance study and others nearby that would be required to absorb the consumer base use geographical distance rather than actual driving distance. While the discontinuance study may address this issue, the RAOI needs to provide this information at a preliminary stage so accurate assessments can be used to inform which Post Offices, branches or station are eligible for a discontinuance study.
- The low workload and revenue screen included in the RAOI disproportionately targets rural post offices for discontinuance studies. Targeting rural post offices for discontinuance studies clearly violates 39 U.S.C. 101(b), which maintains that the USPS is required to provide effective and regular postal service to rural communities.

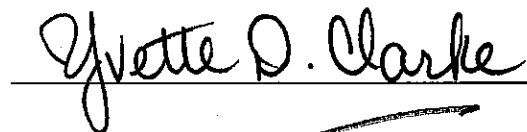
We strongly urge you to rectify these issues within the RAOI before proceeding with any discontinuance studies or closures. The closure of Post Offices, stations, and branches will undoubtedly affect communities and lead to the loss of middle class jobs. We remain dedicated to protecting our nation's postal service and ensuring that all communities are adequately served by the USPS.

Sincerely,


Maurice D. Hinchey


Michael G. Grimm

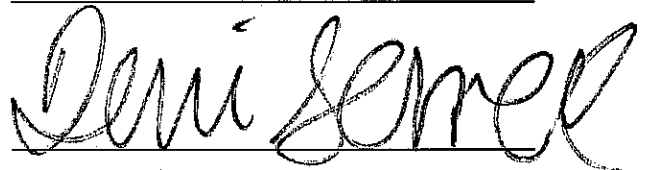


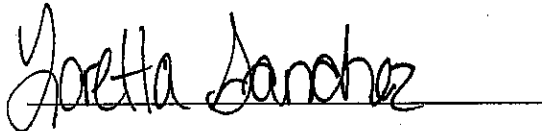


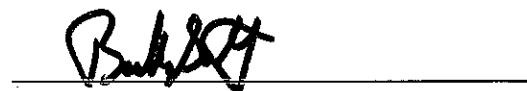


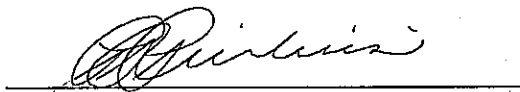


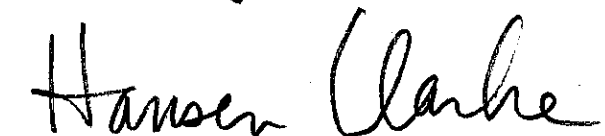




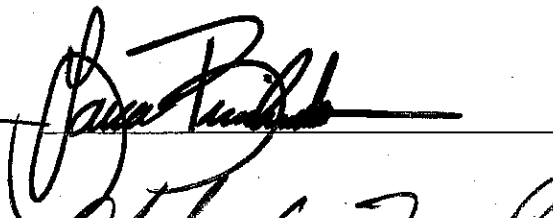


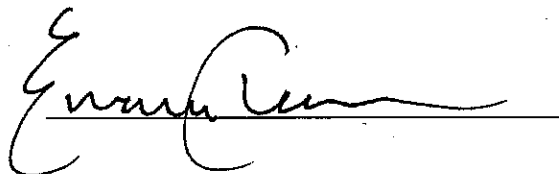


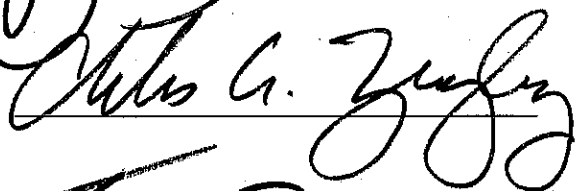


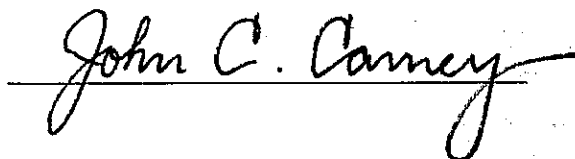














Michael E. Capron

Marie K. Hirano

Ron Kind

Peter Welch

Rail M. Gijabwa

Ly C Felt

Betty Sutton

Alan Lancham

Dave Lueback

Karl Holt

Bob a Brady

Jim Va/Perren

John F. →

W. K. Chaudry M.A. 1954

Shelley Berkeley

Ed Owen

Tinny

John Lewis

Jim B. Miller

William R. Kesting

Donna F. Edwards

Frank Patterson

Ben N. K.

Pete Stark

Chas E. Cildes

Mary L. Ackerman

John Jacks

Eliot L. Engel

Mary Kaptur

Al Hume

Art R

Colic C. R

E. Pomeroy

Green Lane

Barry Frank

Bill Russell Jr

Louis Coppers

Lynn Woolsey

John C. Cattivone

Barbara Lee

Bobby L. Ruck

John Schack

Joe Brown

Stan R. R

GB Butler

Donald M. R

Carole M. Malarney

Chickie L

Melrose Waters

Charles B. Angel

Michael H. Michaud

Zosa DeLauris

Anthony

Aaron W. Bishop Jr.

Madeline J. Bordallo

Joe Hunt

Bennie P. Thompson

Art Hall

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Don O. Meatsie

Constance McCarty

Betty McEllen

Bruce Bailey

Paul Buchanan

Bob Kline

Wm. Lacy Clay

BRAN Higgs

Louise N. Slaughter

Alma L. McHarg

Joe E. Senaw

Jim

Frederica L. Wilson

~~HSher~~

Karen Bass

Mike Doyle

20 H. Li

Keith Ellison

Jay M. Ny

Larry Kirsch

Judy Chen

Mike McIntyre

Dennis J. Kucinich

Mike Simpson

Jasen Altamir

Paul Stenke

Jim McInerney

John W. Oliver

Ziglar

Herb Johnson

Earl Blumen

Pat H. Jones

Tim Holden

Pete M. Long

Rep. Steve Cohen
Rep. Yvette D. Clark
Rep. Terri Sewell
Rep. Pedro Pierluisi
Rep. Laura Richardson
Rep. Mazie Hirono
Rep. Hank Johnson
Rep. Charles Gonzalez
Rep. Betty Sutton
Rep. Russ Carnahan
Rep. Bruce Braley
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Rep. Al Green
Rep. Jose Serrano
Rep. Gwen Moore
Rep. Luis Gutierrez
Rep. Steve Rothman
Rep. Donald Payne
Rep. Maxine Waters
Rep. Charles Rangel
Rep. Bill Pascrell
Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay
Rep. Bob Filner
Rep. Brian Higgins
Rep. Louise Slaughter
Rep. Michael Thompson
Rep. Timothy Bishop
Rep. Donna Edwards
Rep. Shelley Berkley
Rep. William Owens
Rep. Zoe Lofgren
Rep. James Himes
Rep. Doris Matsui
Rep. Judy Chu
Rep. Jason Altmire
Rep. Heath Shuler
Rep. Nita Lowey

Rep. Mark Critz
Rep. Loretta Sanchez
Rep. Bobby Scott
Rep. Chellie Pingree
Rep. Peter Welch
Rep. Michael Capuano
Rep. John Carney
Rep. Earl Blumenauer
Rep. David Loebsack
Rep. Betty McCollum
Rep. Dale Kildee
Rep. Eliot Engel
Rep. Silvestre Reyes
Rep. Lois Capps
Rep. Barney Frank
Rep. Barbara Lee
Rep. G.K. Butterfield
Rep. Carolyn Maloney
Rep. Carolyn McCarthy
Rep. Joe Baca
Rep. Adam Schiff
Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.
Rep. Sanford Bishop
Rep. Bennie G. Thompson
Rep. Gene Green
Rep. Frank Pallone
Rep. David McKinley
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan
Rep. Paul Tonko
Rep. John Yarmuth
Rep. Jerry McNerney
Rep. John Olver
Rep. Mike McIntyre
Rep. Karen Bass
Rep. Michael Doyle
Rep. Larry Kissell

Rep. Ted Deutch
Rep. Brad Miller
Rep. Rush Holt
Rep. Hansen Clarke
Rep. Ron Kind
Rep. Tim Ryan
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver
Rep. Raul Grijalva
Rep. Gary Peters
Rep. Michael Michaud
Rep. Gary Ackerman
Rep. Marcy Kaptur
Rep. Collin Peterson
Rep. Edolphus Towns
Rep. Lynn Woolsey
Rep. Bobby Rush
Rep. Nick Rahall
Rep. Albio Sires
Rep. Alcee Hastings
Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Rep. John Conyers Jr.
Rep. Madeline Bordallo
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Rep. Robert Brady
Rep. Fortney Pete Stark
Rep. William Keating
Rep. John Lewis
Rep. Gerry Connolly
Rep. James McGovern
Rep. Tim Holden
Rep. Peter DeFazio
Rep. David Cicilline
Rep. Jim McDermott
Rep. Keith Ellison
Rep. Dennis Kucinich