

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Megan Brennan
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

We write to express the concerns of our constituents in southeastern Idaho regarding the pending movement of mail processing operations from Pocatello, Idaho, to Salt Lake City, Utah. This action by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will cause delays and inconveniences for a number of Idaho residents, especially those in rural areas.

The elimination of processing functions at the Pocatello facility would be of great detriment to the region it serves for several reasons, but most importantly reduced standards for the frequency of mail delivery. While we are sensitive to the financial hardships the USPS has faced in recent years, the organization can only reduce its infrastructure by so much until the benefits of cost savings are overshadowed by harms to its customers and employees. Continued consolidation of delivery infrastructure endangers small businesses, senior citizens and rural communities disproportionately.

We remain unconvinced by assurances from the USPS that delivery times will not be significantly delayed as a result of the closure. Further, after hearing and reviewing detailed concerns from local residents, we argue factors specific to rural Idaho are not being properly accounted for in the new delivery estimates. Officials from small communities have noted delays in mail delivery could be greatly amplified due to often harsh winter weather in certain areas served by the Pocatello facility that may make the delivery of mail more difficult and time consuming. Veterans, senior citizens and business owners that depend on timely mail service for the delivery of medication, benefit payments and business transactions have voiced concern over delayed service standards and subsequent impacts on their livelihoods. Additionally, local governments are concerned about the ability to serve their constituents as a result of slower mail delivery times, particularly on issues that involve timely responses and carry financial consequences.

We recognize the significant financial challenges the USPS has faced in recent years in light of the recent economic downturn and the increasing utilization of electronic communications. In light of these factors that have had a detrimental effect on mail volumes, we commend the USPS for making considerable gains to

get on a more financially sustainable path. Further, we recognize the Postal Service can only do so much within its existing authority and Congress has a role in this debate as well.

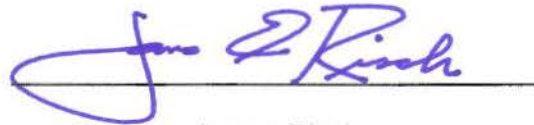
The USPS has been sensitive to the concerns of its customers in the past, particularly in its 2012 decision to opt for reduced operating hours instead of outright closure at numerous post offices throughout the country. We are hopeful USPS will again show such deference to the needs of its customers regarding the 2015 proposed facility reductions.

In conclusion, we urge all due consideration be given to the factors we have outlined in this letter as your organization makes decisions regarding its network of mail delivery infrastructure, and in particular, the mail processing facility in Pocatello, Idaho.

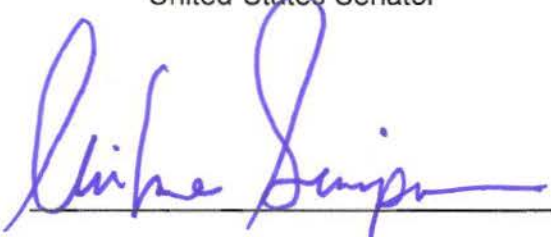
Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



James Risch
United States Senator



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress