



The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial
Management, Government Information,
and International Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Scott P. Brown
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Financial
Management, Government Information,
and International Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lieberman, Chairman Carper, Ranking Member

We understand that you are in the process of considering budget reductions for the United State Postal Service (USPS). As you consider many different recommendations, we urge you continue funding rural Oregon post offices. Rural post offices in general provide a vital link for business, education and between families in areas where cell service, high speed internet and communication infrastructure common in urban areas is rare to non-existent.

During these times of financial adversity, we understand the need to cut costs and reducing the budget. However, we feel closing our rural post offices is an inefficient solution to cost cutting. Closing post offices in rural areas won't prevent mail delivery but will reduce the services provided to rural residents, such as mail registry and other special services which are essential for legal and bureaucratic communications with the Courts and state and federal agencies. Because all the costs associated delivery routes will continue, the proposed measures won't save much if any money.

Current Federal law provides, it is "the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal service be ensured to residents of both urban and rural communities." With the closures currently being proposed by the USPS, residents of these rural Oregon towns could be forced to travel more than an hour to find the nearest post office. This will not only cause financial hardship on individual residents of these communities, it will also cause undue hardship on the local businesses that allow these communities to exist. In these trying economic times, our small rural businesses are fighting for survival. They cannot afford additional expenses that these proposed changes will cause.

Finally, unlike any other state, Oregonians have embraced "vote by mail." Our entire elections process runs through the USPS from statewide to local elections. Curtailing rural mail

services will have the effect of curtailing fair access to the elections process. For this reason alone, our rural Oregon post offices should be exempt from any consideration of closures.

We hope that, as you consider the many different recommendations and proposals being presented, you will keep in mind the importance of the USPS to our rural communities and the important role they play here in Oregon.

Sincerely,

		
		
		
		
		
		
		