

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2107

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October 4, 2011

Ronald A. Stroman  
Deputy Postmaster General  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0050

Dear Mr. Stroman:

I am writing in response to the September 15, 2011 announcement by the United States Postal Service (USPS) about its Area Mail Processing (AMP) study to determine the effects of consolidating mail processing operations currently performed at the Processing and Distribution Centers located in Northwest Boston and Boston proper. The Northwest facility is located at 200 Smith Street in Waltham, in the Congressional District that I represent.

The Postal Service has announced that the purpose of the study is to consider whether consolidation of the two facilities could improve operational efficiency and/or service. I would like to emphasize two crucial factors that should be considered in all decisions regarding the future of the Northwest Facility: jobs and the long-term fiscal health of the Postal Service. The Northwest plant employs 392 individuals and processes 1,761,000 pieces of mail per day, providing services to 34 delivery offices in the surrounding area. As the nation's unemployment hovers above nine percent, I strongly encourage the Postal Service to preserve as many jobs as possible at the Northwest Facility.

I also urge the Postal Service to consider not only short-term solutions to its present crisis, but also the conditions necessary for its long-term growth. This includes the need to preserve, to the highest extent possible, the same level of service that customers have come to expect of the Postal Service. A change in the First Class Mail overnight service standard – as was proposed in the September 15 announcement – could negatively impact both consumers and the Postal Service itself. Customers would no longer be able to count on the timely delivery of financial documents, medications, and other important pieces of mail. Furthermore, a decline in service could precipitate a drop in customer demand, potentially creating a downward spiral of continuing declines in mail volume and, consequently, revenue.

As the Postal Service conducts its study of the Boston and Northwest facilities, I would request the following information:

1. What are the expected savings from the consolidation of the Boston and Northwest facilities? How many years will it take for these savings to be realized?

2. To what extent, and in what manner, will the number of jobs at each of the facilities be considered in the study? If the number of jobs at each facility is not considered as a factor, why not?
3. What efforts, if any, will be taken to preserve jobs at each of the facilities if you choose to consolidate?
4. To what extent does the USPS propose to alter its current First Class Mail overnight service standard? What are the anticipated impacts on consumers, demand, revenue, and jobs both within the USPS and in businesses and industries directly impacted by the USPS ("spin off" jobs)?

Please provide responses to these questions no later than October 18, 2011. If you have questions, please contact Eliza Dewey in my office at 202-225-2836 or [eliza.dewey@mail.house.gov](mailto:eliza.dewey@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
Member of Congress

Cc: Joanne Killackey-Hogan