

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

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February 27, 2012

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 February 23, 2012 letter from Postmaster Patrick Donahoe regarding the United States Postal Service's (USPS) decision to consolidate the Northwest Boston Area Mail Processing (AMP) Center in Waltham, Massachusetts by merging the center with the Boston and Middlesex East facilities. I strongly disagree with this decision, as well as the timing of the announcement, and respectfully ask the USPS to reconsider its assessment.

In a letter to you dated October 4, 2011, I expressed my concerns regarding the AMP study and the impact that potential AMP closures would have on the long term stability of the USPS and the overall economy. Unfortunately, yesterday's announcement does little to alleviate those concerns.


It's no secret that the Postal Service is facing considerable fiscal challenges, but cutting jobs and creating a slower service standard is not the way to fix these problems. As the economy continues to show promise, cutting jobs will jeopardize our recovery. Additionally, the loss of next-day delivery for the majority of first class mail will only serve to turn customers away from the Postal Service in search of other competitors that will suit their needs.

Furthermore, yesterday's announcement highlighted the fact that AMP closures will result in a slower delivery time for USPS customers. These delays will hurt consumers and businesses not only nationally, but especially here in the thriving high-tech Route 128 area, Greater Boston and MetroWest business community. Customers have come to rely on efficient delivery of their mail, and this decision will have a negative economic impact on timely business needs and consumer confidence in USPS.

We do not need mass closings to fix the USPS budget gap – we need to repeal arbitrary rules created by Congress that are gutting the Postal Service. The announcement yesterday gives the impression that these closures are a “done deal” regardless of what action Congress may take. The intention of the moratorium was to give Congress time to act. It is vital that USPS provide Congress sufficient time to enact comprehensive postal legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Eliza Dewey in my office (202-225-2836).

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
Member of Congress