

FRED UPTON
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November 7, 2022

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am deeply concerned about your implementation of the “sorting and delivery center” consolidation and realignment. This initiative will have a significant impact on many communities throughout Southwest Michigan.

As a Member of Congress that has supported a number of important postal reforms, I am very alarmed over proposed major changes that could disrupt delivery of mail in multiple counties that I represent. The idea that a good number of carriers would be required to drive long distances from their delivery communities adds substantial time to a workforce already impacted by worker shortages and morale.

Requiring what could be hundreds of trucks, none of which are able to drive on the two interstates that are nearby, and placing them on routes that could easily cover distances of 100 miles or more at only neighborhood speeds risks adding to delivery time, especially given the winter weather that often impacts Southwest Michigan.

I am troubled by the Postal Service’s failure to comply with provisions of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435) to ensure operational transparency and accountability with respect to the initiative. The law requires the Postal Service to provide affected communities adequate notice of logistics facilities consolidation and realignment, and requires those communities be given ample opportunity to provide input. In addition, the statute requires the Postal Service to make publicly available information relating to any service changes, or any other impact on postal customers or its employees, as well as the potential cost implications. Only after taking into account public input, based on the required information, may the Postal Service make its decision on a facility consolidation or realignment. Postal Service transparency and accountability is essential, particularly in light of the agency’s decade-old modification of delivery operations, which have dramatically and negatively affected mail service.

Therefore, as a Member of Congress representing impacted Michigan communities, I urge you to suspend implementation of the sorting and delivery center initiative, pending the outcome of a comprehensive and transparent review. It is my hope that after such review, you too will agree that these changes will negatively impact the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of

Michiganders who rely on their local postal office to carry out their correspondence in a timely manner. Additionally, changes such as these would have a detrimental effect on aging populations that have long relied on their neighborhood post office to deliver time-sensitive materials such as utility payments and medical bills, many of which carry harsh financial penalties if they are received late. It is imperative that we do not forget *all* of those that we have sworn to serve as we discuss drastic changes to this institution.

There's an old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." On the surface, this certainly looks like a bad outcome for a service that promises a swift completion of their appointed rounds, and I encourage you to reconsider.

I also have encouraged the leaders of our affected communities to voice their concerns directly to you as this is a major change to a vital resource on which we all depend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Upton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Fred Upton

Member of Congress