



August 12, 2011

The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Room 10022  
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

We understand that like state governments, the United States Postal Service is facing significant financial challenges. We also agree that it is essential for the Postal Service to examine its operational structure to ensure it is meeting the needs of customers in a cost-effective manner. However, we are concerned about the focus on closures of Post Office locations and processing centers. Alarming, the effort seems to be disproportionately targeted to facilities in Iowa and Illinois. We understand there will have to be some closings nationwide, but those closures should be balanced and equally distributed across states and regions. No state or postal district should bear an undue burden. We write today to express our concerns about this imbalance and the lack of communication, procedure, and transparency surrounding these Post Office closures.

Post Offices in rural America provide more than retail services to their local communities. For many, local Post Offices serve as economic and social hubs. As such, these towns deserve to have the opportunity to provide input before any final decisions regarding Post Office closures or relocations are reached and to be assured that they will not experience downgrades in mail service. Unfortunately, the Postal Service has not given communities a meaningful opportunity to discuss alternatives to closure and has ignored the right of rural communities to be heard. Attempts by community officials to meet with postal representatives and discuss alternatives that meet the needs of both the Postal Service and the community have often been overlooked and ignored. The lack of communication and information sharing by the Postal Service makes it unclear why certain towns are targeted over others and what criteria was used to select offices for closure. Such an approach also shows disregard for the many partners the Postal Service has in every state.

As Governors, we have the responsibility to ensure our small towns' and rural communities' voices are heard. We believe the Postal Service must provide for

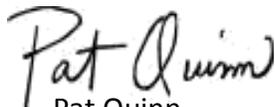
meaningful public input and take into consideration whether the community served by the Post Office is opposed to the decision and whether a closure will bring about degradations in mail service that will adversely affect small town America. We call upon the Postal Service to provide communities with information about the factors involved in decisions to select and proceed with closures and those individuals involved in the decision-making process. It must also provide the opportunity for community members to appeal any decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission.

We also encourage the Postal Service to explore other avenues for cost reduction – such as enabling postmasters to manage more than one Post Office or permitting the Postal Service to sell non-postal products, among others – before closing and consolidating thousands of post offices throughout the United States.

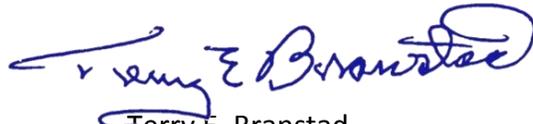
We request a meeting with you and the postmasters of districts within our respective states to discuss these issues and to begin to form a true partnership between states and the Postal Service to address these challenges. We also encourage you to place a temporary moratorium on future Post Office closures within our states until we have the opportunity to meet.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to continuing this dialogue with you.

Sincerely,



Pat Quinn  
Governor of Illinois



Terry E. Branstad  
Governor of Iowa