

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27th, 2012

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi,

We are writing with respect to recent efforts to address the budget crisis facing the United States Postal Service (USPS). Considering the Postal Service's Constitutional mandate to provide reliable mail service and delivery to all areas of the country, we ask that you work with us to ensure any postal reform legislation develops a business model which will allow the Postal Service to maintain robust service in the 21st century.

House and Senate committees as well as USPS management have considered different postal restructuring proposals. Some have called for eliminating 3,600 or more rural post offices, eliminating six day mail service, ending next day mail service, and stopping 90% of door-to-door mail delivery. We recognize the need for USPS to restructure its business model, but believe that we must not be rushed into false choices which could accelerate the decline of the Postal Service, with negative impacts both for our constituents and the trillion dollar private sector mailing industry which depends on the Postal Service.

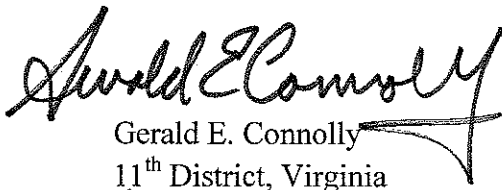
For example, closing thousands of rural post offices would save less than 1% of the Postal Service's annual operating budget, and would not have a significant impact in closing the Postal Service's approximately \$9 billion budget deficit. However, closing rural post offices would have a devastating impact on communities where the post office is the center of a community and a primary means of communication. By comparison, restructuring the \$5.5 billion annual Retirement Health Benefit (RHB) prefunding requirement, imposed by Congress in 2006, would save far more money without any negative impact on mail service or the solvency of USPS pensions. That 2006 law required that the USPS prefund 100% of anticipated retirement and retirement health costs, a requirement that no other public or private entity in America faces. By comparison, many AAA rated localities and states prefund retirement up to 80%.

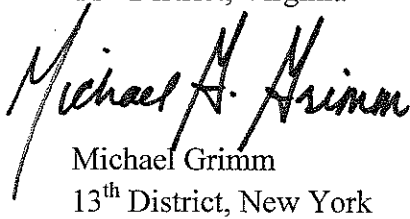
We also have practical alternatives to reducing mail service from six to five days. The Postal Regulatory Commission found that USPS exaggerated savings and underestimated revenue losses which would result from a reduction in mail service to five days or fewer. However, even if we were to accept the generous cost savings estimate presented by USPS, it saves three times less money than refunding money that USPS employees and customers overpaid into FERS. Since USPS has overpaid some \$10 billion into FERS—its own money, not money paid by taxpayers—simply refunding that overpayment would have a much larger impact on USPS's balance sheet without the negative impacts to service associated with reducing mail service from six to five days. This is an important choice for us to make because six day mail service is a competitive advantage for the Postal Service, and because six day mail service ensures that pharmaceuticals and other important communications and products can be shipped to our constituents in a timely manner.

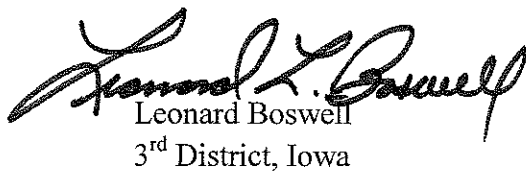
Ending next day mail service and stopping 90% of door-to-door mail delivery, most of which occurs in small towns and older communities, also would degrade service. The USPS earns three times less revenue from non-postal sources than comparable postal services in Europe, due to a provision of the 2006 postal restructuring bill which precludes many sources of USPS revenue. Rather than tying the hands of USPS Congress should let it operate like a business, in *partnership* and not competition with other businesses. It would be difficult to determine how much revenue could be generated, but we do know outdated restrictions impede innovation and should be removed.

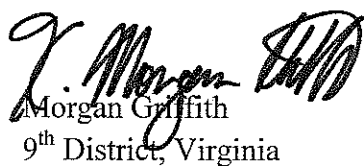
By considering reforms which save money without damaging service cuts, particularly for rural areas, we can maintain fidelity to the Postal Service's Constitutional mandate, create opportunities for business growth, and perhaps obviate the need to lay off hundreds of thousands of our neighbors who work for the Postal Service. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on such an important matter, and share the commitment to developing a new Postal Service business model which closes the current gap in funding while continuing robust mail service to all areas of our nation.

Sincerely,

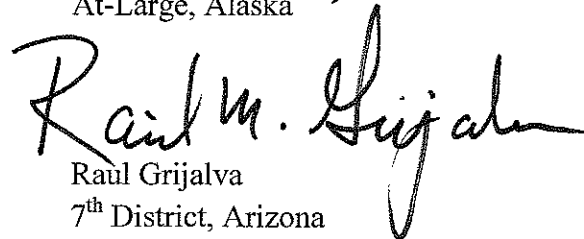

Gerald E. Connolly
11th District, Virginia

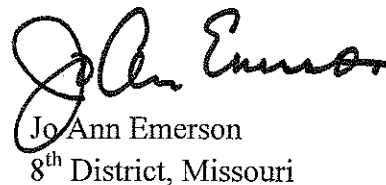

Michael Grimm
13th District, New York

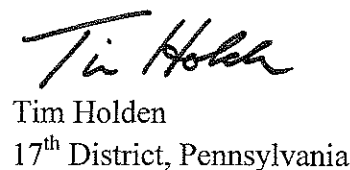

Leonard Boswell
3rd District, Iowa


Morgan Griffith
9th District, Virginia


Don Young
At-Large, Alaska


Raul Grijalva
7th District, Arizona


Jo Ann Emerson
8th District, Missouri


Tim Holden
17th District, Pennsylvania

Frank A. LoBiondo
Frank LoBiondo
2nd District, New Jersey

Sanford W. Bishop J.
Sanford Bishop
2nd District, Georgia

Maurice Hinchey
Maurice Hinchey
22nd District, New York

Tom Marino
Tom Marino
10th District, Pennsylvania

Walter B. Jones
Walter Jones
3rd District, North Carolina

Wm. Lacy Clay
Lacy Clay
1st District, Missouri

Ruben Hinojosa
Ruben Hinojosa
15th District, Texas

Nick J. Rahall
Nick J. Rahall
3rd District, West Virginia

Timothy V. Johnson
Tim Johnson
15th District, Illinois

Russ Carnahan
Russ Carnahan
3rd District, Missouri

Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer
3rd District, Oregon

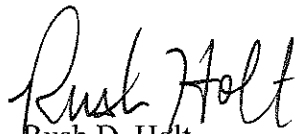
Bill Owens
Bill Owens
23rd District, New York

Tim Ryan
Tim Ryan
17th District, Ohio

Michael H. Michaud
Michael Michaud
2nd District, Maine

Pedro R. Pierluisi
Pedro R. Pierluisi
At-Large, Puerto Rico

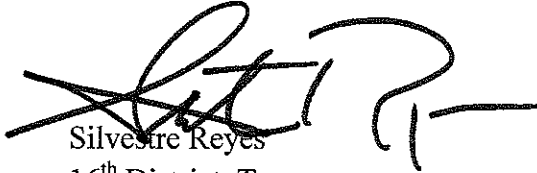
Edolphus Towns
Edolphus Towns
10th District, New York



Rush D. Holt
12th District, New Jersey



Dennis J. Kucinich
10th District, Ohio



Silvestre Reyes
16th District, Texas



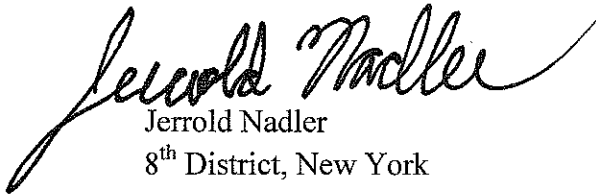
Mark S. Critz
12th District, Pennsylvania



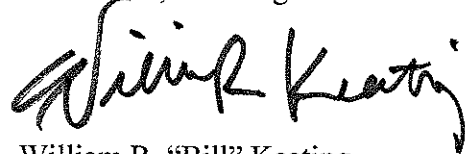
Howard Berman
28th District, California



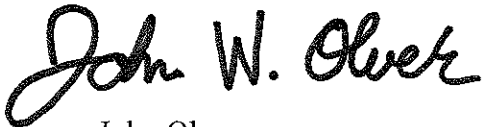
Rick Larsen
2nd District, Washington



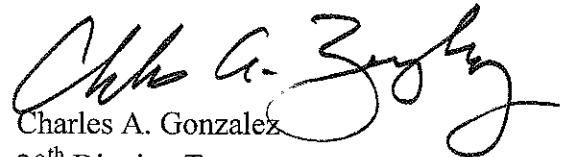
Jerrold Nadler
8th District, New York



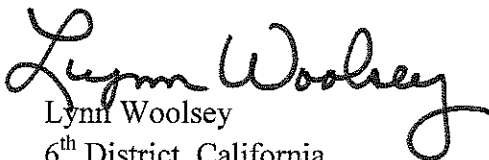
William R. "Bill" Keating
10th District, Massachusetts



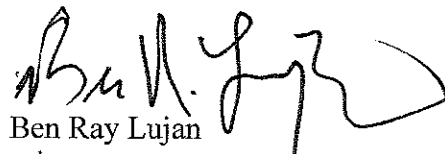
John Olver
1st District, Massachusetts



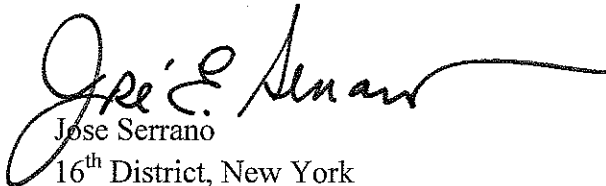
Charles A. Gonzalez
20th District, Texas



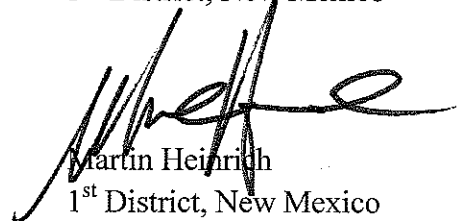
Lynn Woolsey
6th District, California



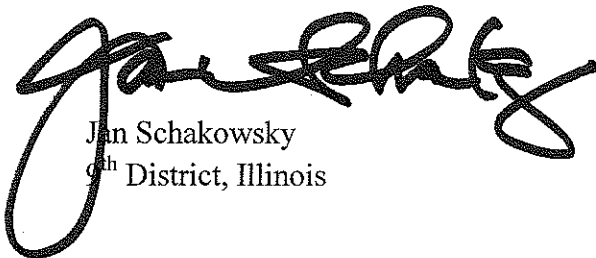
Ben Ray Lujan
3rd District, New Mexico



Jose Serrano
16th District, New York



Martin Heinrich
1st District, New Mexico



Jan Schakowsky
9th District, Illinois



James P. Moran
8th District, Virginia

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
17th District, New York

Albio Sires

Albio Sires
13th District, New Jersey

Ed Perlmutter

Ed Perlmutter
7th District, Colorado

Kurt Schrader

Kurt Schrader
5th District, Oregon

Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
9th District, Michigan

Chellie Pingree

Chellie Pingree
1st District, Maine

Bruce Braley

Bruce Braley
1st District, Iowa

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis
7th District, Illinois

Jackie Speier

Jackie Speier
12th District, California

Carolyn M. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney
14th District, New York

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison
5th District, Minnesota

Sander Levin

Sander Levin
12th District, Michigan

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown
3rd District, Florida

Collin C. Peterson

Collin C. Peterson
7th District, Minnesota

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
At-Large, District of Columbia

Gene Green

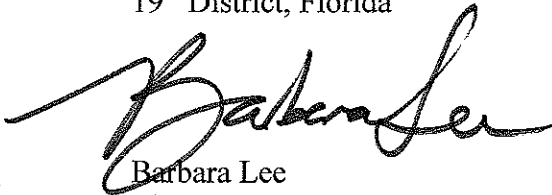
Gene Green
29th District, Texas



Ted Deutch
19th District, Florida



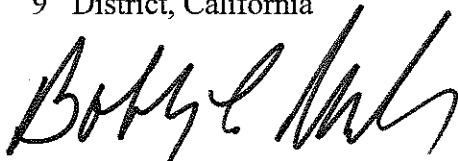
Mike Quigley
5th District, Illinois



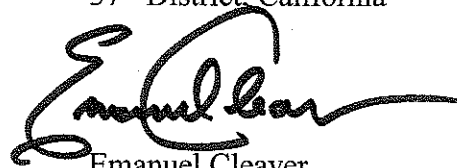
Barbara Lee
9th District, California



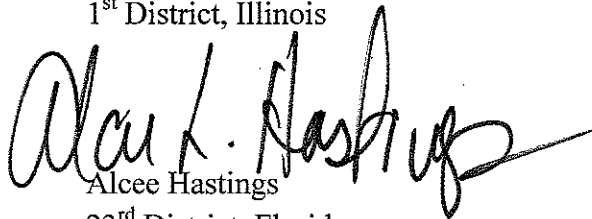
Laura Richardson
37th District, California



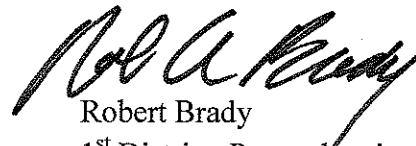
Bobby Rush
1st District, Illinois



Emanuel Cleaver
5th District, Missouri



Alcee Hastings
23rd District, Florida



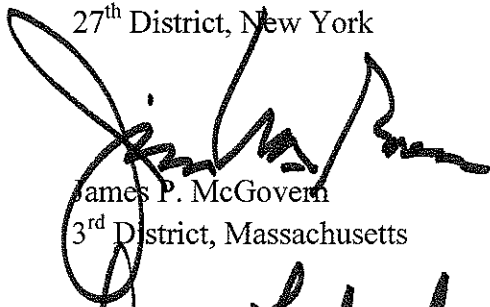
Robert Brady
1st District, Pennsylvania



Brian Higgins
27th District, New York



Barney Frank
4th District, Massachusetts



James P. McGovern
3rd District, Massachusetts



Bob Filner
51st District, California



Dave Loebsack
2nd District, Iowa



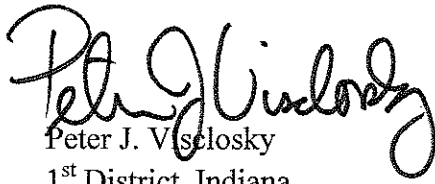
Judy Chu
32nd District, California

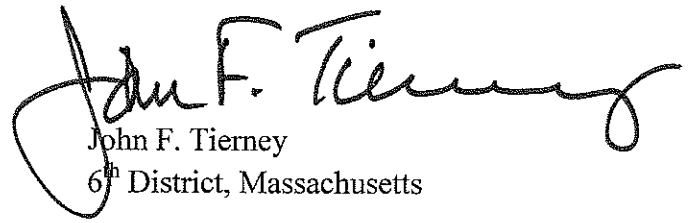



Maxine Waters
35th District, California





Larry Kissell
8th District, North Carolina

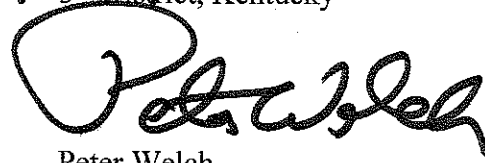

Peter J. Visclosky
1st District, Indiana

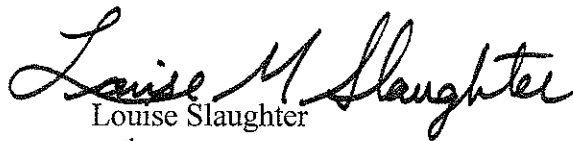

John F. Tierney
6th District, Massachusetts


Brad Miller
13th District, North Carolina



John Yarnuth
3rd District, Kentucky


Mike Ross
4th District, Arkansas



Peter Welch
At-Large, Vermont



Louise Slaughter
28th District, New York


Mike Thompson
1st District, California

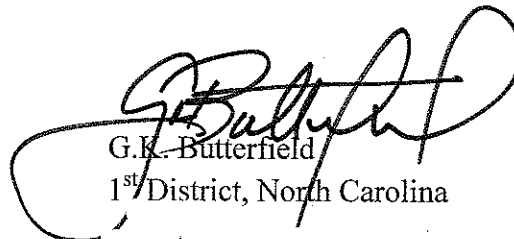

Michael F. Doyle
14th District, Pennsylvania


C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
2nd District, Maryland

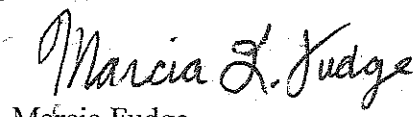

Charles B. Rangel
15th District, New York

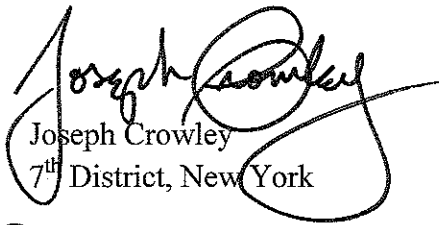

Kathy Hochul
26th District, New York



John Conyers
14th District, Michigan

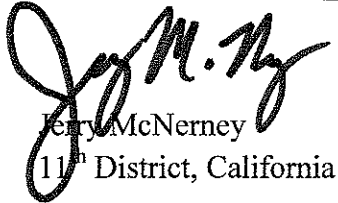

G.K. Butterfield
1st District, North Carolina



Grace F. Napolitano
38th District, California



Marcia Fudge
11th District, Ohio



Joseph Crowley
7th District, New York



Susanne Bonamici
1st District, Oregon

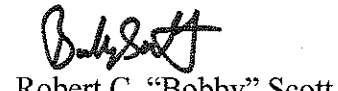

Jerry McNerney
11th District, California

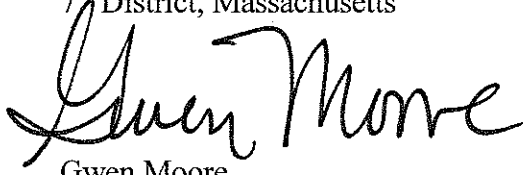

Fortney Pete Stark
13th District, California



Carolyn McCarthy
4th District, New York

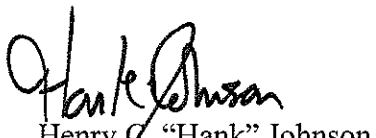

Heath Shuler
11th District, North Carolina



Edward J. Markey
7th District, Massachusetts


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
3rd District, Virginia

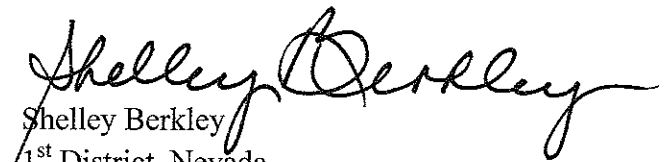

Gwen Moore
4th District, Wisconsin


Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
2nd District, Illinois


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
4th District, Georgia


Jason Altmire
4th District, Pennsylvania


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
8th District, New Jersey


Shelley Berkley
1st District, Nevada