

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

We thank you for your leadership in providing assistance to those who face the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has worked throughout this crisis to deliver essential items to our communities, both in Arizona and across the nation. It is critical that Congress provide additional funding and assistance to help USPS maintain its critical services in the short-term and ensure long-term success by ensuring key area mail processing (AMP) facilities remain open to protect service standard performance.

As you know, the USPS has seen a drastic reduction in overall mail volume due to the COVID-19 crisis and is at risk of seeing total volume fall by half by the end of the fiscal year. Some projections indicate that the USPS could run out of money by the end of October if substantial action is not taken. However, USPS remains a critical part of our nation's society and economy, providing a vital link for rural communities and delivering medicine and supplies during the ongoing crisis. Further, the USPS is essential for seniors and veterans for prompt, affordable mail delivery and other needs.

In order to maintain these critical operations, the USPS needs direct funding and assistance, not just the \$10 billion in additional loans the CARES Act granted. We are concerned that if additional funds are not provided, USPS will move to lower service standards and close AMP facilities in an attempt to remain solvent. Such actions would have a negative effect on the efficiency with which Americans can send and receive mail and further damage the nation's postal network. This must be avoided, since USPS is critical to our economy and infrastructure.

We are particularly concerned about the potential closure of AMP facilities listed under Phase 2 of the USPS's Network Rationalization Plan.¹ In September 2019, the USPS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released an audit report recommending the revision and update of AMP feasibility studies related to such Phase 2 AMP facilities.² The closure of AMP facilities without undergoing up-to-date feasibility studies will cause unnecessary harm and could adversely impact the USPS's efficacy.

¹ USPS Network Rationalization Plan, 2015, <https://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/NRC/2015/NR-Service-Standard-Impacts-2015-0115.pdf>

² USPS Postal Service Processing Network Optimization, Audit Report, 2019, <https://www.uspsog.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2019/NO-AR-19-006.pdf>

Considering the essential role the USPS plays in surviving the ongoing crisis and will play in our nation's economic recovery, we believe that if funding is directed to the USPS – which is necessary and must be included in any further COVID related legislation – the USPS should be prohibited from consolidating Phase 2 AMPs without first conducting updated area feasibility studies. Such a requirement will help USPS maintain its service standards.

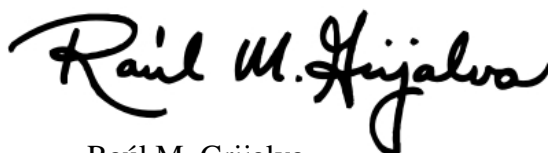
It is our belief that if the USPS is allocated taxpayer dollars to maintain its operations, service standards and AMPs must be preserved to ensure taxpayers can utilize USPS services at the same efficiency levels they are accustomed to.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and your attention to this pressing matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure the USPS remains solvent and retains its service standards and AMPs.

Sincerely,



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Cosignatories:

Bobby L. Rush
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Brian Higgins
Ann McLane Kuster
John B. Larson
Greg Stanton
Rep. Terri A. Sewell
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