

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2011

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General, CEO
United States Postal Service (USPS)
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Donahoe,

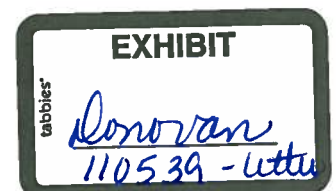
I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents and the City of Milwaukee to express my concerns regarding a United States Postal Service (USPS) matter.

Recently, I was informed that the USPS plans to conduct studies of 5 Post Offices in the City of Milwaukee (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Hampton, Mid City, Parklawn, & Teutonia) to determine whether discontinuance and/or conversion to forms of alternative access is appropriate given factors such as low workloads, insufficient customer demand, and/or availability of alternatives.

I understand the USPS continues to face financial challenges and is working to cut costs. However, the potential closing of these central city post offices is greatly alarming, due to the impact it will have on elderly residents and those who may suffer a disability. Enclosed please find maps developed by the City of Milwaukee displaying the disparate impact the potential closings will have on the residents of these areas.

Furthermore, the 5 post offices under consideration are all clustered within a few blocks of each other in a portion of my district that is 80-97% African American. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in this area has a range of \$0-\$28,419. This raises concerns as to whether or not the USPS is fulfilling its mandate to provide affordable, secure, and dependable service to all Americans, especially when a city with 26 post offices has 5 of the proposed closings concentrated in a few specific neighborhoods.

You explained that as an alternative to discontinued post offices, the USPS has proposed Village Post Offices, contractor-operated postal units established inside pharmacies, grocery stores, and other retailers and municipalities. According to USPS, Village Post Offices will offer core products and services.



In order to gain a better understanding of the changes the USPS seeks to make and the impact these changes may have on my constituents, I request that you respond to the following concerns:

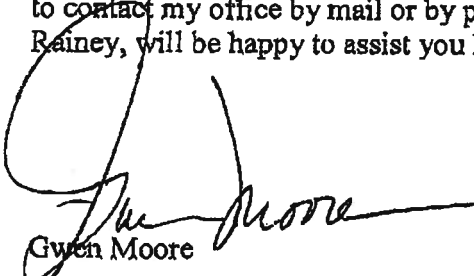
- What is the criterion for the closing of a USPS Post Office?
- Will all Alternate Access Points be open and providing service prior to the closing of a Post Office?
- What steps are being taken to ensure that no postal employees lose their job and how many employees do you estimate will lose their jobs as a result of these closures?
- Will this increase the contracting out of any postal service currently done by postal employees including any adjustments to letter carrier routes as a result of this proposal?
- Please provide me with the mail volume data for the past 4 years for the post offices that are under consideration for closing along with a comparison of volume decline for the other 21 Milwaukee Post Offices.
- Please provide my office with the unit facts and revenue trends for the last 4 years for all City of Milwaukee post offices.
- Where does the USPS project cost savings come from by component (labor, facility, energy costs)?
- Does the cost saving assume and include estimates of lost revenues? (All current P.O Box users may not migrate to the Village Post Office, other customers may no longer choose to use the USPS.)

There are currently 3,400 P.O Box users, who under your proposal, will not be able to go to anywhere other than another Post Office to receive P.O Box service.

- Should P.O Box users be forced to transfer their service to an alternative location, does the USPS have enough vacant boxes to accommodate consumers' needs? If not, will the USPS be adding additional boxes to recommended alternative sites to fulfill the demand created as a result of these closings?
- If the Hilltop Station were to accommodate the almost \$800,000 in revenue activities from the nearest postal facilities that would close, would that not require new staffing or other spending at that post office to accommodate the increased business and to ensure that customer wait time or other customer service standards are not compromised?

I look forward to your earliest response. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office by mail or by phone at (414) 297-1140. My staff assistant, Khalif Rainey, will be happy to assist you however he is able.

Sincerely,


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Herb Kohl
U.S. Senator

GM/kr
Cc: Postal Regulatory Commission
Cc: Wisconsin State Rep. Barbara Toles
Cc: Wisconsin State Senator Spencer Coggs
Cc: City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett