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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4702

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20260-0010

Mr. Donahoe:

I am writing to express my disappointment that the Everett Area Mail Processing Facility in Everett, Washington is included on the list of facilities to be consolidated released today by the U.S. Postal Service. I urge you to reconsider the decision.

I am greatly concerned about the impact the consolidation would have on residents and businesses in Northwest Washington. The consolidation of services at this facility could end efficient mail turnaround for hundreds of thousands of my constituents. Losing the single day turnaround of letters in this region would be a blow to the high standards of the United States Postal Service.

As I wrote in a letter to you in November, I believe some of the cost savings calculations of closing the facility are nebulous. They do not seem to consider the added costs of processing the mail at another facility, nor do they consider the costs of maintaining the facility as a hub or for other uses.

As you know, there are more than 300 employees at the Everett Area Mail Processing Facility who manage more than 1 million pieces of mail each day. Consolidation at this facility will mean that many of these dedicated workers will lose their jobs or have to relocate. I would like to know what plans are being made to find new jobs for these workers and ensure they are treated fairly in the transition.

I recognize the great economic strains that the Postal Service is facing. But it is important that as the Postal Service adapts, its core services are not compromised. I look forward to hearing from you about how the Postal Service plans to maintain its high quality mail service to Northwest Washington residents and how workers at the Everett Area Mail Processing Facility will be affected.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
Washington State, 2nd District