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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

February 13, 2006

Mr. John E. Potter
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW RM 10802
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Jack:

I am writing to express my strong concerns about any changes by the United States Postal Service that would reduce mail service quality in Central Washington state, especially as the Postal Service conducts an Area Mail Processing study at the Yakima Post Office.

I appreciate the efforts of the Postal Service to focus on improved services and believe public participation is critical if any changes are to be considered. For this reason, I ask your assistance in addressing the following questions:

- Sharing of information is vital to ensuring the public needs are best served in this process. How does the Postal Service plan to share information with the public and Congress as they conduct their Area Mail Processing study?
- Should the Postal Service consider mail processing changes at Yakima as a result of the study, the opportunity for public comment before action is taken is critical. What steps will the Postal Service take to allow for public comment if possible changes are considered?
- Finally, I am interested to know what other, if any, consolidation efforts and Area Mail Processing studies are being conducted or planned for Washington state?

My constituents in Central Washington already face difficulties associated with access to mail facilities in rural areas, and I would like to ensure that any proposed changes strengthen rather than reduce mail delivery service. I appreciate your attention to these questions and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doc Hastings". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress