

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 28, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We write to express our serious concern about the United States Postal Service's (USPS) proposed changes to Nevada's Reno Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) on Vassar Street, and to request information about the potential impact of such changes to mail service reliability, the local economy, and jobs in the community.

On February 06, 2024, USPS released its Initial Finding of its Mail Processing Facility Review for the Reno P&DC, in which USPS determined it will likely downsize the Reno P&DC to a Local Processing Center (LPC) and that "the business case supports transferring mail processing outgoing operations" from Reno, Nevada, to Sacramento, California. In its review, USPS does not provide information about the study on which it relied to reach this determination, nor does it provide any analysis on local impacts of moving mail processing completely outside of the State of Nevada. With this in mind, we are concerned about the plan to downsize the Reno P&DC and move its operations to California, and frustrated by the lack of transparency from USPS about the process for making this significant determination.

The proposed downsizing could severely impede on-time mail service in Northern Nevada, which is essential for those who rely on the Postal Service to receive their medication, Social Security checks, notes from loved ones, and much more. USPS is also how many Nevadans conduct commerce, pay their bills, vote in federal and state elections, and respond to time-sensitive matters. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs alone fills about 80 percent of veterans' prescriptions by mail. The veterans receiving these medications – among the 220,000 veterans in Nevada – rely on the Postal Service for timely delivery of their often life-saving prescriptions. Delays for these men and women who have served our country is not an option. Likewise, for many families in rural Nevada, the Postal Service is the only way that they can receive critical deliveries and participate in e-commerce. Diverting their mail outside of the state and back again raises serious concerns. In this same vein, sending over one hundred thousand mail-in-ballots from Nevada to California before they are sent back to Northern Nevada is extremely concerning to election officials in the state.

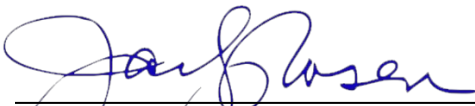
The USPS standard for local Reno mail received and delivered is two days, a standard which USPS has already struggled to meet. Sending Nevadans' mail to California does not seem like a promising way of improving this deficiency. The snowy mountains and often difficult road conditions between Reno and Sacramento pose a major challenge to on-time mail delivery, furthering concerns about service delays if mail is being shipped out of state only to later be sent back to Nevada.

Moreover, USPS provides good, reliable jobs for the Reno community that this “modernization” could put at risk. While USPS states that “there will be no career employee layoffs,” it neither provides data on how it reached this conclusion, nor does it make any mention of prospective job losses for pre-career employees, who are those who have worked for USPS for under two years. Moreover, USPS also states that there might be a “net decrease of 11 craft and 1 management position” once the downsizing of the facility to a Local Processing Center is complete. It is hard to imagine how a facility downsizing would not result in community job loss or employee relocations outside of the state to Sacramento. Furthermore, we are concerned that a reduction in services and thus employment opportunities at Reno P&DC will negatively impact the USPS employment pipeline for new, future hires in the community. With this in mind, we respectfully request that USPS provide the following by March 15, 2024:

1. A detailed explanation of how USPS assessed the projected service and job impacts that would result from downsizing the Reno P&DC to an LPC;
2. Data from the Mail Processing Facility Review of the Reno P&DC used to determine the impact to jobs in the region, including the current employment numbers for career and pre-career employees at Reno P&DC;
3. Any assessment USPS conducted on the impact on downsizing the Reno P&DC on mail service in Reno, the rest of Washoe County, and Northern Nevada as a whole, in addition to the specific impacts on veterans, seniors, and rural communities;
4. Any assessment USPS conducted on impacts to mail-in ballots sent from Nevada that would be diverted to the mail processing facility in Sacramento before being sent back to Nevada;
5. A detailed explanation of USPS’s assessment of weather and geographic conditions between Reno and Sacramento, and the resulting impacts to service; and
6. A briefing for Senator Rosen, Senator Cortez Masto, and Representative Amodei on the proposed changes.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions or updates, please contact Olga Zoraqi from my staff at Olga_Zoraqi@rosen.senate.gov.

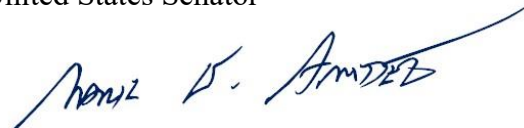
Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Mark Amodei
Member of Congress