

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve King released the following statement today after the United States Postal Service (USPS) announced a new initiative to allow rural post offices that had been targeted for closure to remain open. In recent months, amid looming budget shortfalls, the USPS announced plans to close thousands of small, rural post offices nationwide. Sixty-two of these post offices are located in Western Iowa. Today's announcement comes after significant concerns were raised with the closure proposal by Congress and the public. According to today's announcement, the USPS will curtail hours of operation at small post offices to match the average flow of daily foot traffic, rather than close the offices altogether.

"In rural America, we understand the role played by post offices in small town life," said King. "For months, Western Iowans have been struggling with the idea that they'd lose their local post office. Since the closure plans were first announced months ago, my staff and I have been in contact with the leaders of all sixty-two affected communities in the Fifth District. I have also discussed the issue of post office closures directly with the Postmaster General, explaining that many in these small towns have suggested that the USPS could find other ways to cut costs, instead of simply closing small town post offices. It appears that this was a common theme in the feedback the USPS received about its closure proposal."

"I will continue to work with the USPS and the Fifth District's business and community leaders to evaluate this proposal and ensure that any changes made to the USPS' retail and delivery network continue to serve the needs of all western Iowa."

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