Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2011

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General &
Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Room 10022
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

We are writing to request a delay in the final implementation of the consolidation of Sioux City's mail processing operations into those of the mail processing facility located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

On August 1st, when we met with you in Senator Grassley's office, you committed to us that Sioux City's community and business leaders would have the opportunity to present the Postal Service with a counter proposal to avoid closure of Sioux City's processing plant, and you assured us that these leaders would be given the information needed to develop such a proposal. Yesterday, more than three weeks after our meeting, Postal Service officials traveled to Sioux City in an effort to fulfill your commitment. It was the first time that city and community leaders were given any additional information about the rationale for the proposed consolidation and the type of counter proposal that would be necessary to keep Sioux City's mail processing plant open. In light of this fact, we believe that it is reasonable to ask the Postal Service to delay the final implementation of this consolidation to allow sufficient time for city and community leaders to develop a competitive counter proposal.

We also understand that in the coming days the Postal Service will be announcing plans to further reduce its nationwide mail processing network through the closure of a significant number of other processing facilities across the country. We believe that a delay in the closure of Sioux City's mail processing center will allow the Postal Service the opportunity to better consider the value of a processing center in Sioux City in light of a nationwide mail processing network that will soon undergo profound changes.

While we appreciate the efforts on behalf of the Postal Service that went in to arranging yesterday's meeting, yesterday's meeting was more than three weeks overdue and specifically excluded Postal Service employees who were best able to assist the community in analyzing the data presented. This is of significant importance because we have been told that any counter

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proposal from the city must be submitted by September 16th. Given the delay caused by the Postal Service in convening yesterday's meeting, the importance of the information provided yesterday regarding what a successful counter proposal might look like, and the impact that the soon to be announced realignment of the Postal Service's processing network might have on processing operations in the tri-state area, we believe that a delay in the final implementation of this consolidation is both warranted and necessary.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Steve King

Congressman Steve King

Chuck Grassley

Senator Chuck Grassley

Tom Harkin

Senator Tom Harkin