

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We write to express extreme concern about the Postal Service's initiation of a Mail Processing Facility Review of the Manchester Processing and Distribution Center in Manchester, New Hampshire.

We understand that this review includes consideration of significant changes to processing operations for New Hampshire's mail. Specifically, it is our understanding that the Postal Service is considering substantial consolidation of the Manchester facility with the Mail Processing and Distribution Center in Boston, Massachusetts. This consolidation would effectively end most mail processing operations at the Manchester facility and instead require New Hampshire's mail to be shipped to Boston for processing. We are alarmed by this proposal, which would cause increased service delays across New Hampshire.

Our constituents depend on the Postal Service for prompt and reliable mail and package deliveries. Delays of critical deliveries, such as medications and benefit payments, can cause significant harm, especially for elderly Americans and those living in rural areas. The decisions the Postal Service is considering would put at risk the ability for individuals across New Hampshire to rely on the Postal Service to ensure their delivery needs are met.

We are also concerned about the impact these harmful changes would have on employees at the Manchester facility. While we appreciate that the Postal Service has announced that this review will not result in career employee layoffs, we understand that approximately 40-60 employees of the Manchester facility could see their jobs relocated to Boston. The large distance between the two facilities is likely to make such a commute enormously inconvenient and expensive, if not entirely unfeasible, for many New Hampshire employees, especially for those who currently rely on public transportation to get to work.

We are further concerned that the Postal Service has scheduled its public meeting regarding this review in a manner that hampers the ability of impacted community members to provide informed feedback. The meeting's date of February 8 is less than a month after the Postal Service has announced its review of the Manchester facility. This date does not provide the community sufficient time to be made aware of and familiar with the impacts of this review. Worse, the meeting has been scheduled for the middle of the afternoon during a weekday, which will prevent most working individuals from being able to attend. Additionally, the venue chosen for the meeting has a limited seating capacity that is expected to constrain the ability for impacted community members to provide feedback.

We urge the Postal Service to improve its solicitation of community feedback during its review of the Manchester Processing and Distribution Center and to evaluate seriously the damaging impact these changes would have on mail service in New Hampshire. We are request answers to the following questions:

1. What is the Postal Service's estimation of the impact that the changes to mail processing operations under consideration would have on postal service in New Hampshire?
2. Why has the Postal Service chosen to organize its Manchester public meeting at such an inconvenient time and location and with such minimal advance notice?
3. How is the Postal Service working to improve public outreach in New Hampshire about the ongoing review? Is the Postal Service considering holding a second, more accessible public meeting?

Due to the significant public concerns outlined above, we believe that the proposed changes under consideration are too damaging to proceed, and we urge the Postal Service to reconsider these proposals.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

CC: Todd Hawkins, Vice President, Processing Operations, Eastern Region, U.S. Postal Service