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**COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**
CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 7, 2011

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To Whom It May Concern:

The Postal Service has announced an Area Mail Processing (AMP) study for complete consolidation of the Kalamazoo Processing and Distribution Center in Oshtemo, Michigan into the Grand Rapids, Michigan facility. I am concerned that closure of the Kalamazoo facility will result in disproportionate harm to the Kalamazoo community and have reservations over whether consolidation will result in ratepayer savings.

Businesses in Kalamazoo depend on timely delivery of their mail and reasonable access to the Postal Service's delivery network. Many area businesses have stated the increased costs of transporting mail to Grand Rapids would be detrimental to their bottom lines and would even force some of them to find alternatives to the Postal Service for mail delivery. In fact, one of the region's largest business mailers, Lake Michigan Mailers, Inc., is currently based in Kalamazoo. Their decision to locate in close proximity to the Kalamazoo Processing and Distribution Center was not an accident, and forcing this business to transport mail to Grand Rapids will have a major negative impact on it as well as its clients in the region.

With nearly three years of double-digit unemployment in Michigan, the Kalamazoo community can ill-afford another blow to local job creators. In addition to the net loss of 91 Postal Service employee positions, I am afraid the resulting changes will cause even more private industry jobs to leave the region. Further, I am concerned that this proposed consolidation will negatively affect both collection box pick-up times and service standards within southwest Michigan, another deterrent to businesses operating in the region.

I would also note that the Kalamazoo facility is located on land owned by the Postal Service, while Grand Rapids operates in multiple facilities, most of which are leased. Further, the Kalamazoo facility has recently been outfitted with a number energy-efficient technologies and is ideally located near Interstate 94 and the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport.

Finally, in May 2010, the Postal Service announced the results of a previous AMP study that consolidated outgoing automated mail processing from the Kalamazoo facility to the Grand

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Rapids facility. I requested the Post-Implementation Review (PIR) of this consolidation on June 1, 2011. I was told the PIR was not yet complete, but I would be provided with a redacted copy once it was. Having received neither of the two required PIR's, I question the wisdom of the Postal Service in moving forward on yet another AMP study. Before the current AMP study moves forward, a full and proper analysis of the 2010 consolidation should be made available, clearly stating that there is a business case for relocating outgoing automated mail processing from Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids.

As the Postal Service continues to explore proposals to ensure Americans have access to an efficient Postal Service that will remain viable for decades to come, I assure you that I will continue to closely follow this situation and work towards a solution that provides both stability to the Postal Service and accountability to taxpayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Upton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Upton
Member of Congress