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3RD DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
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RANKING MEMBER

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4803

March 7, 2011

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The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe  
Postmaster General & Chief Executive Officer  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

We are very concerned about the Area Mail Processing (AMP) studies that have been initiated in West Virginia.

The Postal Service has announced four AMP studies in West Virginia since last summer – in Beckley, Huntington, Martinsburg, and Bluefield – and already implemented a fifth study in Wheeling. The Postal Service is not pursuing any studies – not one – in twenty-two other states, and yet there have been five proposed consolidations in West Virginia alone. Of those states where studies are being pursued, only seven have had as many or more AMP studies than West Virginia, all of them states with significantly larger populations.

In addition, of the five studies in West Virginia, three have proposed moving mail processing operations out of the state – from Wheeling to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; from Martinsburg to Suburban, Maryland; and from Bluefield to Johnson City, Tennessee.

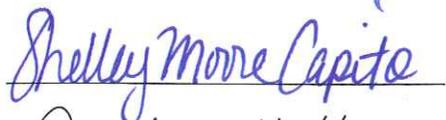
The Postal Service is required by law to provide effective and regular mail delivery services to rural areas – even when it costs the Postal Service money and it has to run a deficit to do so. The people of West Virginia deserve the same level of service and the same fairness and equity afforded to the people of other states. We are rightly concerned about our mail services being disrupted and the impact on postal workers in our communities.

We would appreciate your providing us with a full report on why West Virginia is being made to bear a disproportionate number of AMP studies, and why so many AMP studies are being announced within such a short period of time.

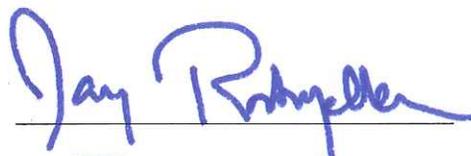
We look forward to your timely response.

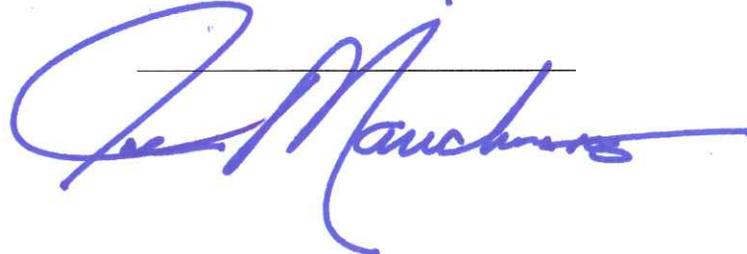
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Rahall

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley Moore Capito

  
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David B. McK

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Rohlf

  
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