

Protect Our Services Today (POST) Act

Overview

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) operates more than 31,600 retail locations and handles 48% of the world's mail volume. Now more than ever, dependable, affordable mail service is critical to connect to family members, access prescription medicines, and keep businesses viable. In rural areas, where internet access is less reliable, the postal service becomes a lifeline the rest of the country. Keeping postal facilities open and operational ensures that the people and the economy do not suffer more than they should.

Background

In June 2020, shortly after Postmaster General Louis DeJoy assumed his current position, reports began coming out that major operational changes were underway that could have significant adverse effects on mail delivery. Much of this reporting was based on information contained in two memos distributed by Postmaster General DeJoy, including specific instructions to leave mail behind at distribution centers if a letter carrier could not finish his or her route.

Around the same time, in West Virginia, notices were placed in 5 Post Office facilities announcing scheduled closing dates at the end of August 2020. In response to a letter from Senator Manchin on the subject, USPS stated that –while the closure notices were incorrectly posted – an ongoing review was underway that could significantly reduce facility operations throughout the Appalachian District. Specifically, USPS confirmed that 12 Post Office sites were identified for feasibility studies for potential closures, and another 24 locations were proposed for reduced hours. Unfortunately, USPS has refused to release additional details about these locations or the criteria they used in selecting these locations.

The Bill

Until the COVID-19 public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services is lifted, USPS is prohibited from closing any postal facilities that were in operation as of January 27, 2020. This includes any renewal of the declaration into the future.

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Senator Manchin's staff will return
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possible.