

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

June 10, 2015

Megan J. Brennan
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Ms. Brennan,

I write today regarding network consolidation and service standards at the United States Postal Service (USPS). In recent months, I have heard complaints from many constituents that the speed of delivery has slowed following the consolidation of postal facilities in Minnesota. I request that you address this recent deterioration of service and avoid future actions that would further lower service quality.

The USPS Network Rationalization plan drastically consolidates postal operations in Minnesota. USPS has already closed the processing center in Rochester. Processing of outgoing mail in the Duluth region has moved to Eagan. In addition, processing centers in Bemidji, Mankato, and Waite Park are slated for closure. At the same time, USPS has adopted lower service standards for first-class mail, reducing the share of mail delivered in two days or less.

Since the Duluth processing center stopped processing outgoing mail in April, I have heard troubling reports of worsening service throughout Northeast Minnesota. A local paper that used to be delivered in a day or two is now taking up to ten days to arrive. Local businesses are losing customers because their packages are taking twice as long to arrive. Medications have arrived spoiled due to delayed delivery. Such poor service drives customers away from the post office, which is counterproductive to the long-term health of USPS. I would appreciate any explanation that you can provide regarding the causes of these service issues.

In late May, USPS announced a moratorium on further consolidation of its facilities through the end of 2015. While this action will preserve existing operations in Bemidji, Mankato, and Waite Park for the time being, it does not address the problems Minnesotans are already experiencing as a result of previous consolidations and lowering of service standards. Ultimately, Congress must address the financial issues it has created for USPS. In the meantime, I ask that you do everything possible to maintain an efficient, high-quality network for all postal customers.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Al Franken
United States Senator