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Office of the Governor

March 7, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am writing to you regarding the United States Postal Service's (USPS) proposed changes to the Reno Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) in Northern Nevada and request that you take seriously the concerns being expressed by my constituents, local governments, and Nevada state agencies.

A month ago, the USPS released a proposal suggesting that the Reno P&DC may be downsized to a Local Processing Center (LPC). This action would require that mail be sent to Sacramento, CA for processing, instead of remaining locally for processing and distribution. Recent snowstorms are a fierce reminder of the interruptions seasonal weather events can have on local commerce due to stalled transportation, deliveries, and shipping as a result of poor road conditions and road closures. Forcing what the USPS considers to be a good business decision on Northern Nevadans while risking reliable and timely mail service for our hard-working families, seniors, veterans, and small businesses is not acceptable. The State of Nevada also has serious concerns about the proposed relocation compromising the votes of Nevadans using mail in ballots to vote in elections. I request that you give full consideration to the comments submitted to the USPS by impacted Nevada stakeholders, local governments, State of Nevada entities, including the Nevada Departments of Health and Human Services and Motor Vehicles.

Among our State agencies, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regularly contact constituents across the state via the Postal Service. DHHS programs serve some of Nevada's most vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, people with physical disabilities, and individuals with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities. Timely and reliable mail operations are a matter of administrative necessity for DHHS and are critical to effectively serving these vulnerable populations. Downsizing and relocating the Reno P&DC could contribute to significant setbacks to Northern Nevadans receiving DHHS administered benefits and the processing of applications. For example, delays receiving and processing applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid could result in families going without food or necessary medical care.

Additionally, the DHHS Division of Child and Family Services administers the Confidential Address Program. This program heavily relies on the Postal Service and serves as a key piece of safety plans for survivors of abuse. Through the program, participants are able to reroute mail in order to keep their location safe and hidden. The program already encounters lengthy mail processing due to the system set in place to protect the program participants' locations. Processing mail through Sacramento could add several days to their mail processing times by requiring the participant's mail go through the Sacramento location twice before finally reaching the participant. Inclement weather could further compromise this essential mail delivery, and the added time could deter participation in the critical program.



The Nevada DMV headquarters also stands to be directly impacted by USPS's proposal, as its main mailroom operations for the entire state are included in the area affected by the proposed changes. The DMV relies on the USPS for timely delivery as it strives to meet the needs of Nevadans while also adhering to timelines often dictated by Nevada statute. An increased risk of unreliable mail operations because of downsizing and relocating the Reno P&DC would have a domino effect on Nevadans awaiting timely service from the DMV. For instance, extended wait times could increase employment and medical service interruptions as individuals await DMV-issued identification; restricted, revoked, or suspended license drivers could remain on the road longer due to delays in receiving court documents; and Commercial drivers could be unable to operate if their required documentation is delayed. Additionally, should the DMV be required to compensate for anticipated mail delivery delays, it could also see increases in costs associated with mail processing to ensure timely delivery.

I respectfully urge USPS to take into consideration the State of Nevada's serious concerns regarding the Reno P&DC proposal, and I thank you for your attention to this issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and my team should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Lombardo', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joe Lombardo
Governor