

BEN CHANDLER
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2011

Mr. Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro,

I am writing to request a review of the United States Postal Service's study that recommends closing the Processing and Distribution Center in Lexington, Kentucky. I have serious concerns about the accuracy of the assumptions and figures used in the study, as well as whether the true impact of the proposal is fully understood.

The USPS recently completed an Area Mail and Processing (AMP) feasibility study for the Lexington, Kentucky Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC). The results recommended transferring the processing operations in Lexington to Louisville, Kentucky and Knoxville, Tennessee. As a result of this change, mail for certain parts of my district in Central Kentucky would have to travel upwards of two hundred miles round trip. This move would result in the loss of over 300 jobs, delay mail service, and hurt small businesses and standing partnerships with local mail houses in Lexington and surrounding communities.

The demographical makeup of Central Kentucky creates unique challenges; while Lexington is a large urban area, many of the counties in my district are rural in nature. These rural areas rely on the Postal Service as their main source of communication with family, friends, financial institutions and government agencies. There is also a large veteran and elderly population in the Sixth District who depend on the Postal Service for delivery of their prescription drugs.

A July 14, 2011 report by the USPS Office of Inspector General recommended a restructured preferred network which includes a P&DC in the Lexington area. The Lexington P&DC is a top performing, highly efficient center, and would be an appropriate centralized location for mail processing and distribution in Kentucky.

The Lexington Processing and Distribution Center provides Central Kentucky with a crucial service and hundreds of good jobs, and I strongly believe the GAO needs to investigate the situation further before considering closing the facility. Therefore, I respectfully, but most urgently, request that the GAO conduct an independent review of the USPS's plan to move mail processing and distribution from Lexington, Kentucky to ensure the justification, suitability and efficiency of any consolidation.

Thank you for your careful review of this matter. If you require any further information, please contact me or my Constituent Services Director, Veronica Cecil, in my Lexington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Chandler".

Ben Chandler
Member of Congress