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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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STAFF DIRECTOR

April 4, 2013

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General & CEO
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

We believe that, given the Postal Service's deteriorating financial condition, it is time to reduce the level of postal services provided to the House of Representatives as proposed by USPS in the fall of 2011.

Currently, there is one post office located in each of the four House Office Buildings and one in the US Capitol. Although open to the public, the security screening necessary to enter the buildings deters widespread public use, and since most official House correspondence is processed through an intermediary, several of these post offices receive very little foot traffic.

In the fall of 2011, the USPS submitted a proposal to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the House recommending that the post offices located in the US Capitol, Rayburn and Cannon House Office Buildings be closed. It is our understanding that this recommendation was based on a survey that demonstrated extremely low usage of these facilities. The bottom line is that employees and members of the House of Representatives enjoy a level of postal service well in excess of that received by most of their fellow Americans.

Congress should not treat itself to such privilege at the expense of the ratepayer. Therefore, in concurrence with the USPS recommendation, we request that within the next three months you close the abovementioned facilities, consolidating these services to the Ford and Longworth House Office Buildings.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeffrey Post at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,

Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

Candice S. Miller
Chairman
Committee on House
Administration

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe

April 4, 2013

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Cc: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Minority Member
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Robert Brady, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Dan Strodel, Chief Administrative Officer of the House