



SUSANA A. MENDOZA
ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER

Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-2200

May 1, 2024

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed changes to the Processing and Distribution Centers (P&DCs) in Springfield and other locations throughout Illinois.

As State Comptroller, my Office is responsible for issuing and mailing approximately 2.9 million checks per year, or about 11,000 on an average business day. Many of these payments go to providers of household assistants and emergency child support, and providers of medical and other human and social service entities across Illinois and surrounding states. Timely delivery via the US Postal Service is critical to recipients who depend on these state payments, and even a one-day delay can be especially detrimental to these providers who serve the state's most vulnerable populations in Illinois.

Under the proposed change, while the US Postal Service asserts greater efficiencies, my Office seeks additional confirmation that no potential delays will occur. Currently, the Office of Comptroller will drop off state mail for distribution at the Cook Street facility in Springfield, Illinois. It our understanding that the proposal would require such mail first to be transported to a distribution center in St. Louis, Missouri, which is 100 miles south, then to be redirected to recipients living in the Chicago area some 300 miles north. Likewise, I have the same concern if the distribution center is in the Chicago area when state payments are to be redirected to downstate Illinois.

Given that Springfield is the seat of state government where a distribution hub for state mail is warranted, I ask for specific assurance from the US Postal Service that an impact analysis is thoroughly conducted prior to implementation so that it can verify there is no potential risk for performance delays and that plans are in place for evaluating the effectiveness of the distribution network shift if and when it is implemented. It is my understanding that several Illinois Congressional delegation members already raised similar concerns and questions and encouraged a full impact analysis of these changes to avoid further undermining the sustainability of the postal service.

I or a member of my staff is available to discuss this important matter with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

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