

United States Senate

February 9, 2024

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

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

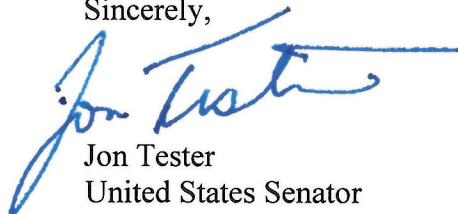
I write today regarding reports I have heard from Montanans about the Mail Processing Facility Review at the Missoula Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) that was recently announced by the United States Postal Service (USPS). I share the concerns that Montanans have voiced in response to this review and oppose any plans that would reduce workforce, capacity or delivery standards for Montanans.

The Missoula P&DC is a critical part of postal operations in Montana. The center employs over a hundred Montanans and has served the community for decades. If processing were to be moved out-of-state, mail would get sent from Missoula more than 200 miles over two mountain passes to Spokane to be sorted before any of it is sent back to be delivered. This plan would involve driving our mail in semis over Lookout Pass, which is a precarious route and is often closed due to bad weather. I fail to see how this transfer would result in improved postal service for Montanans.

Our state's small businesses rely on the mail system to send products to their customers and many folks rely on timely USPS service to send checks and mortgage payments to the bank. Mail delivery also effects our seniors in rural areas who rely on the postal service to deliver their life-saving medications and veterans who depend on the postal service to deliver their prescriptions and hard-earned federal benefits.

I urge you to immediately halt any proposal to move Missoula operations to Spokane and refocus efforts on improving delivery standards in rural America.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator