

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 743

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to urge the U.S. Postal Service to rescind its decision to close the Shallowford Road Mail Processing and Distribution Center in Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, on Thursday, February 24, 2012, the U.S. Postal Service announced that it would close the Shallowford Road Mail Processing and Distribution Center in Chattanooga sometime after May 15, 2012, moving operations to Nashville and Duluth, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, this ill-reasoned decision would uproot the lives of 110 employees and their families in Chattanooga, but is not yet final, as it is premised upon the approval of several extreme operational changes that include a reduction in mail service, fee increases, and delaying delivery to customers across the country; and

WHEREAS, during its many years of operation the Shallowford Road Mail Processing and Distribution Center and its employees have developed a sterling reputation for quality service and routinely go above and beyond their duties to assist their customers in the finest tradition of the U.S. Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, while the U.S. Postal Service's plan seeks to overcome a substantial financial deficit, the organization's proposed solution to shutter exceptional facilities, like Shallowford Road, is the wrong path to take and will drastically hurt customer service and result in less business and less revenue; and

WHEREAS, the impact on local businesses would also hurt the economy of the State of Tennessee, with a prime example cited in local news reports being Chattanooga-based BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, which sends 90,000 to 100,000 pieces of mail daily, containing the company's checks, bills, and time-sensitive membership information that would all be delayed with potentially costly consequences, according to a company official; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the economic well-being of the State of Tennessee and its citizens that the U.S. Postal Service immediately reconsider its proposed action and destructive decision; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body strongly opposes the decision to close the Shallowford Road Mail Processing and Distribution Center in Chattanooga and urges the U.S. Postal Service to rescind its decision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe of the United States Postal Service.