

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4254

To limit the closure or consolidation of any United States Postal Service processing and distribution center in States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2024

Mr. TESTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To limit the closure or consolidation of any United States Postal Service processing and distribution center in States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Access to
5 Rural Carriers for Every Location Act” or the “PARCEL
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON CLOSING OR CONSOLIDATING**
8 **POSTAL SERVICE PROCESSING AND DIS-**
9 **TRIBUTION CENTERS IN STATES.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER.—

2 The term “processing and distribution center”
3 means a central mail facility that—

4 (A) distributes and dispatches part or all
5 of both incoming mail and outgoing mail for a
6 designated service area;

7 (B) provides instructions on the prepara-
8 tion of collection mail, dispatch schedules, and
9 sorting plan requirements to mailers; and

10 (C) is a sectional center facility, a general
11 mail facility, or a dedicated mail processing fa-
12 cility without a station or branch.

13 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means a State
14 or the District of Columbia.

15 (b) PROHIBITION.—The United States Postal Service
16 may not close, consolidate, downgrade, or take any other
17 similar action with respect to a processing and distribution
18 center in a State if such action would result in—

19 (1) the processing operations of the processing
20 and distribution center being relocated outside the
21 boundaries of the State; or

22 (2) degradation of local mail delivery.

23 (c) LIMITATION.—The United States Postal Service
24 may not move forward on any decision to close, consoli-
25 date, downgrade, or take any other similar action with re-

1 spect to a processing and distribution center in a State
2 unless the United States Postal Service—

3 (1) completes a review of the anticipated impact
4 of geographical considerations, including mountain
5 passes, on mail delivery following such action, and
6 adequately addresses any issues raised by the review;
7 and

8 (2) publishes a public input summary that re-
9 flects favorably on the decision.

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