

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

I am writing to urge that you schedule for immediate consideration by the House bipartisan legislation that will recalculate the United States Postal Service (USPS) pension funding requirements. A majority of the House of Representatives – 228 Members – have cosponsored H.R. 1351, which if passed could help keep open the William Street Area Mail Processing Facility in Buffalo and prevent the loss of its 700 jobs.

This story is not one that is limited to Western New York. Across the country 267 USPS processing facilities, big and small, are being evaluated for merger, closure and consolidation. The strength of our economic recovery is dependent on billing, medical prescriptions, Social Security checks, payroll checks and package delivery. Businesses in my district rely on the USPS for bulk mailing and business discounts that would be difficult to realize with the closure of the Buffalo facility.

The USPS is in desperate need of operational funds in order to realize enough savings to maintain these facilities. H.R. 1351 would begin to address the onerous requirement that the USPS pre fund retiree benefits 75 years in the future. This policy has the unrealistic and draconian impact of requiring USPS to set aside billions of dollars today for the benefits of postal workers who have not yet been born. This legislation would allow the USPS flexibility in closing or consolidating facilities until Congress can act on a larger reform package.

The impact on our communities will be felt immediately if we fail to act. Across the nation thousands will soon be out of work and businesses will suffer from newly added costs and delays in logistic chains. I ask that you bring this bill up for consideration as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

KATHY HOCHUL
Member of Congress