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March 9, 2012

Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Chairman
United States Postal Service Board of Governors
458 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Chairman Marshall:

As the American people struggle with record-high debt, gas prices, and unemployment, they expect their public servants to make sacrifices, just as families across our country do every day. That is why I joined a majority of my colleagues in voting to cut the budget for the legislative branch and freeze pay for Members of Congress. In that spirit, I request that the Board of Governors limit compensation for Postal Service executive officers to Level I of the Executive Schedule—the same salary earned by the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, and other senior officials who also serve our nation. In addition, I request that you reject any bonuses for Postal Service executive officers in a year that the USPS reduces services through the closure of a retail or processing facility.

Like many Americans, I was shocked to learn that the U.S. Postmaster General's fiscal year 2011 salary was \$271,871, 36 percent more than that of a Cabinet Secretary. As you know, multiple Postal Service executives received bonuses and comparable pay last year. It is an outrage that the USPS would provide such generous compensation for its executives while proposing the closure of the William Street Area Mail Processing Facility in Buffalo, which employs 700 members of my community.

The members of the Board of Governors are collectively responsible for determining appropriate levels of compensation for USPS senior management. Going forward, I ask you to remember the postal workers and supervisors whose jobs and benefits are threatened and the businesses that face a reduction in services before approving bonuses or paying Postal Service executives more than U.S. Cabinet members.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress