

□ *Washington, DC* -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today hailed the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) for providing a reprieve of its previously-announced plan to close the Mid-Hudson Processing and Distribution Center located in Newburgh, New York as well as a similar facility in Binghamton. The facilities were not included on a list the USPS released today of processing and other USPS facilities slated for closure in 2013, though the USPS said it will revisit the matter for 2014. Hinchey has been a staunch opponent of closing the Newburgh and Binghamton sites and has repeatedly pressed the USPS to keep open the facilities, which are major employers in the regions. The congressman is continuing to work to pass legislation that would address the underlying financial troubles faced by the USPS.

"I am happy that the U.S. Postal Service listened to the overwhelming community opposition to closing the Mid-Hudson and Binghamton Processing and Distribution Centers and decided not to consolidate these facilities this year or next, as originally proposed," Hinchey said. "Not only does keeping these facilities open continue to provide good-paying jobs that will help the area's economy, it also ensures that the Hudson Valley and the Southern Tier have an effective mail delivery system, which is critical to those regions' businesses. This announcement demonstrates that our efforts to help draw attention to the many positive aspects of the Mid-Hudson and Binghamton Processing and Distribution Centers had an impact on the U.S. Postal Service's decision process, which is why we will keep pressing forward to ensure this issue doesn't reappear down the road."

Hinchey previously urged Postmaster General Donahoe to prevent the closure of the Newburgh and Binghamton facilities after the USPS initiated an Area Mail Processing (AMP) study to consider consolidation with a similar facility in Albany, New York. Hinchey offered official comments opposing the potential closure of the facilities on December 1, 2011. Later that December, Hinchey sent another letter to Postmaster General Donahoe signed by 37 other House members opposing the proposed closure of mail processing and distribution centers nationwide.

Hinchey is a cosponsor of legislation designed to help ease the financial challenges currently faced by USPS. The United States Postal Service Pension Obligation Recalculation and Restoration Act of 2011 (H.R. 1351) would free up billions in financial resources for USPS for years to come. Under current law, the Postal Service is required to pre-fund health care benefits of future retirees at a cost of over \$5 billion annually. H.R. 1351 would help reduce the financial burden of this requirement by allowing the Postal Service to use billions of dollars in overpayments to their pension fund to pre-fund healthcare benefits of future retirees. The legislation is strongly supported by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Hinchey has also joined several of his U.S. House colleagues in introducing the Postal Service Protection Act - legislation designed to alleviate the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) immediate financial crisis and prevent the layoff of thousands of USPS employees nationwide.

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