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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To modify the procedures used by the United States Postal Service for the closure or consolidation of any post office or any processing and distribution center, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BUDZINSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To modify the procedures used by the United States Postal Service for the closure or consolidation of any post office or any processing and distribution center, 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 “Protect Postal Per-
5 formance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON CLOSURE AND CONSOLIDATIONS**
2 **OF POST OFFICES.**

3 Section 404(d) of title 39, United States Code, is
4 amended —

5 (1) in paragraph (4)—

6 (A) by striking “The Postal Service” and
7 insert “(A) The Postal Service”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(B) During such 60-day period, the Post-
10 al Service shall carry out a public hearing on
11 the closure or consolidation, which may be at-
12 tended in-person or virtually by any members of
13 the public affected by the closure or consolida-
14 tion.

15 “(C) Not later than 7 days after such
16 hearing, the Postal Service shall publish a sum-
17 mary of the hearing on the Postal Service’s
18 public website, and include in such summary a
19 description of any comments made or otherwise
20 submitted at such hearing and the percentage
21 of such comments that were in support or
22 against the closure or consolidation.

23 “(D) Notwithstanding any other provision
24 of this title, the applicable post office may not
25 be closed or consolidated until the date that is

1 180 days after the date the summary is pub-
2 lished under subparagraph (C).”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of
5 this title, a post office may not be closed or consoli-
6 dated if such post office—

7 “(A) is not located within 15 miles of any
8 other post office; or

9 “(B) is the closest post office for a popu-
10 lation of 15,000 individuals or more.”.

11 **SEC. 3. POSTAL SERVICE PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION**

12 **CENTERS; TRANSPORTATION OPTIMIZATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 39, United
14 States Code, is amended by adding after section 416 the
15 following:

16 **“§ 417. Postal Service processing and distribution**
17 **centers**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Postal Serv-
19 ice may not close, consolidate, downgrade, or take any
20 other similar action with respect to any processing and
21 distribution center in a State if such action would result
22 in no such center being located in that State in any geo-
23 graphically non-contiguous region of that State inhabited
24 by more than 100,000 permanent residents. In this sub-
25 section, the term ‘geographically non-contiguous region’

1 means an area of a State that is physically separated from
2 the main body of the State by a significant body of water
3 or land controlled by another State.

4 “(b) LIMITATION ON CHANGES TO MAIL PROCESSING
5 FACILITIES.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, the Postal Service may not imple-
8 ment or otherwise carry out any changes to the op-
9 erations of its mail processing facilities (including
10 consolidation or partial consolidation, aggregation of
11 processing, distribution, or delivery operations) until
12 on or after the date that the Postal Regulatory
13 Commission issues an advisory opinion on the pro-
14 posed facility changes.

15 “(2) DEADLINE.—The Postal Regulatory Com-
16 mission shall issue the advisory opinion required
17 under paragraph (1) not later than 120 business
18 days after the date the Postal Service submits to the
19 Commission a proposed change to any such facility.

20 “(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission
21 shall issue an advisory opinion for each processing
22 and distribution center at which the Postal Service
23 has proposed changes, downsizing, and consolida-
24 tions.

1 “(4) REPORT.—If an advisory opinion by the
2 Commission under this subsection determines that a
3 proposed change will lead to slower on-time mail de-
4 livery, the Postal Service shall publish a report on
5 the Postal Service’s public website on practices and
6 procedures the Postal Service will implement to en-
7 sure mail delivery remains on time. No such changes
8 may be implemented or otherwise carried out for the
9 period of 180 days beginning on the date such re-
10 port is so published.

11 “(c) PROHIBITING ON CARRYING OUT MAIL PROC-
12 ESSING FACILITY REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other
13 provision of law, the Postal Service may not carry out the
14 United States Postal Service Mail Processing Facility Re-
15 view (or any successor program), and no Federal funds
16 (including amounts in the Postal Service Fund under sec-
17 tion 2003) may be obligated or expended to carry out such
18 Review.

19 “(d) LIMITATION OF THE CLOSURE OF PROCESSING
20 AND DISTRIBUTION CENTERS IN REGIONS THAT ARE
21 NOT MEETING ON-TIME DELIVERY BENCHMARKS.—Dur-
22 ing any calendar year, the Postal Service may not close,
23 consolidate, or otherwise move any operations or services
24 from any processing and distribution center located within

1 any Postal Service district that, during anytime within the
2 immediately preceding calendar year, failed to meet—

3 “(1) at least 93 percent on-time delivery rate
4 for two-day single first-class mail; and

5 “(2) at least 90.3 percent on-time delivery rate
6 for three to five-day first-class mail.

7 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

8 “(1) the term ‘processing and distribution cen-
9 ter’ means a central mail facility that—

10 “(A) distributes and dispatches part or all
11 of both incoming mail and outgoing mail for a
12 designated service area;

13 “(B) provides instructions on the prepara-
14 tion of collection mail, dispatch schedules, and
15 sorting plan requirements to mailers; and

16 “(C) is a sectional center facility, a general
17 mail facility, or a dedicated mail processing fa-
18 cility without a station or branch; and

19 “(2) the term ‘State’ means the 50 States and
20 the District of Columbia.

21 **“§ 418. Local transportation optimization and re-**
22 **gional transportation optimization**
23 **changes**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service may not im-
25 plement or otherwise carry out any local transportation

1 optimization (in this section referred to as ‘LTO’) and re-
2 gional transportation optimization (in this section referred
3 to as ‘RTO’) efforts that will decrease the number of times
4 mail is either picked up or dropped off for any post office
5 in the country.

6 “(b) PRC OPINION.—The Postal Service may not
7 proceed with changing drop off and pick up schedules at
8 post offices as part of the LTO or RTO plans without
9 requesting a Postal Regulatory Commission opinion.

10 “(c) LIMITATION.—If the Postal Regulatory Commis-
11 sion does not recommend implementing these changes in
12 an opinion under subsection (b), the Postal Service may
13 not move forward with LTO or RTO optimization efforts
14 anywhere in the United States.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 for such chapter is amended by adding after the item re-
17 lating to section 416 the following:

“417. Postal Service processing and distribution centers.

“418. Local transportation optimization and regional transportation optimiza-
tion changes.”.