

Fighting for Postal Reform



The Postal Service is right there in the Constitution – Article One, Section Eight. Our Founding Fathers recognized how important it was to ensure that mail could move efficiently from one state to another. And to this day, post offices are the backbone of rural states like Montana. However, in recent years the Postal Service’s budget has gone from black to red, and Congress has failed to do anything about it.



- In a misguided attempt to cut costs, USPS has closed or consolidated more than 140 mail processing facilities nationwide—including six out of the nine (6/9) in Montana.



- So now, in a city like Helena, a piece of mail headed down the street has to be routed 90 miles north to the processing plant in Great Falls, and then 90 miles back before arriving at its destination in Helena.



- This has not only eroded delivery standards and jeopardized the reputation of hard working postal service employees, but it has actually cost USPS an additional \$66 million.

“Together we’re fighting for strong mail service, a financially sound agency, and a postal workforce that is proud of the work they do every day.”

Jon Tester

That’s why Jon is fighting to fix our Postal Service by:



Demanding More Data & Accountability

- In January 2014, Jon sent a letter to the Government Accountability Office, calling for answers about how the Postal Service measures delivery times and adheres to service standards.
 - ▶ In October 2014, the GAO confirmed that delivery times for mail have slowed down significantly.
 - ▶ The report also revealed that USPS was failing to measure almost half of its mail for on-time delivery performance.
- As a result, Jon has requested a study by the Postal Regulatory Commission to measure delivery times. The results of this study are scheduled to be finalized this year. This data will help Congress address the underlying service issues plaguing the USPS.

Stopping Costly Closures

Last Congress, Jon sponsored the *Rural Postal Act of 2015* (S.1742), which improved mail service by restoring overnight delivery and placing a two-year moratorium on the closure of additional processing plants. The bill also permanently preserved six-day mail delivery and protected rural post offices from closures, while allowing for a petition process to undo closures made by the Postal Service.

Standing Up for USPS Employees

Currently, thousands of USPS employees don’t have the right to appeal removals, suspensions, reductions in pay, and furloughs. As a result, Jon introduced *The Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act* (S.606) last Congress, which extends federal employee protections to certain USPS officers and employees who currently aren’t represented by a collective bargaining agreement.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

JON TESTER