



February 10, 2021

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC - 20515-3705

Dear Congressman Schrader:

This responds to your February 4 letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, concerning postal operations and services in West Linn, Oregon.

I understand your interest in securing a new postal facility in West Linn, and I regret any frustration or confusion there may have been regarding the U.S. Postal Service's position on this matter. As you are aware, the leaseholder wishes to redevelop the property and as a result, the Postal Service's lease at the current facility is expiring at the end of February 2021. The Postal Service must vacate this property and find an alternative location(s) for retail and delivery operations.

Regrettably, the topography, geography, and property availability of West Linn present unique challenges in procuring a suitable replacement. In order to fulfill our mission to the community of West Linn, it is important that the Postal Service find a replacement with adequate space for our retail, delivery, and parking needs.

Specifically, the Postal Service needs:

- a parcel of land to purchase that is approximately 75,000 square feet; *or*
- a building to lease that is approximately 10,000 square feet with 65 exclusive parking stalls; *or*
- a retail building to lease that is approximately 3,150 square feet with 27 parking stalls *and* a carrier building with two docks and 44 parking stalls.

The Postal Service would prefer a single facility to house both retail and delivery operations, since this is the most efficient and cost-effective model. However, the Postal Service is open to procuring multiple facilities that split retail and delivery operations. Despite this openness to procuring multiple facilities, the challenges outlined above are still present. In addition, the Postal Service wishes to reiterate our commitment to remaining in West Linn, and to working with your offices and the West Linn community to reach a resolution.

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To be transparent and to further enhance communications, the Postal Service has maintained consistent dialogue with the Mayor and City Council of West Linn regarding developments and available property. In addition, the Postal Service has shared developments as they become available with your offices. In June of 2019, postal officials participated in a community meeting, to solicit proposals and comments from the residents of West Linn. The Portland District Manager later sent a letter to the residents of West Linn on January 9, 2021, requesting proposals and outlining our needs. Most recently, postal officials met with the West Linn Mayor and City Council on January 14, 2021. Postal officials also will participate in an upcoming community meeting to discuss developments and pending proposals.

The Postal Service has received thirty-four proposals for the West Linn Post Office project. We are actively considering six of these proposals. These six proposals fall under the split retail and delivery operations model. Unfortunately, further details on the specific proposals would compromise our negotiating position and are commercially sensitive. However, I want to reassure you that Postal Service District, Area, and Headquarters officials are working tirelessly every day to find a resolution.

As information, upon expiration of the current lease in West Linn, the Postal Service will execute its Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan. Customers will have access to retail, Post Office Box, and other mailing and delivery services from the Gladstone Post Office located at 605 Portland Avenue in Gladstone. The transition to this temporary facility will be seamless and provide no interruption in customer service. It is important to remember that this is temporary solution and the Postal Service has every intention of returning to West Linn.

The Postal Service looks forward to continuing to work with your offices and the West Linn community to provide prompt and reliable postal services.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance in any other postal matters.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Simpson
Manager, Government Liaison