



National Association of Postmaster of the United States
Department of Government Relations
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The Postal Regulatory Commission estimates that the maintenance of the 10,000 smallest post office costs the Postal Service only 0.7% of its operating budget. Two successive Gallup Polls evidence that over 85% of the American public oppose post office closures. Post offices are the most visible and trusted face of government.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

Markup of HR 2309

Vote “YES” on Braley Post Office Protection Amendment

The Braley amendment helps safeguard universal mail service by striking “Subtitle A” and “Section 112” from HR 2309.

Subtitle A creates a commission tasked with reducing postal infrastructure. The commission is modeled after the Defense Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). In part, Subtitle A requires the commission to propose the closure of the amount of post offices that would yield a ten-year cut of \$8 billion. Inasmuch as small post offices account for only 0.7% of the USPS’ budget, Subtitle A would deal a devastating blow to small towns and rural communities.

- Subtitle A jeopardizes every small and rural post office by discounting the social and economic value that post offices provide to communities.
- Subtitle A does not credit the USPS with any savings attributable to the ongoing USPS post office closing initiative, which is reviewing 3,600 facilities for closure.
- Subtitle A fails to provide substantive community input. (The BRAC process considered a limited number of military facilities for closure. In contrast, Subtitle A would lead to closing thousands of post offices, mostly in towns and areas, where the impacted citizens and small businesses would have virtually no input.)
- Subtitle A circumvents community appeal rights to the Postal Regulatory Commission, and the right of American citizens to universal postal services.

Section 112 eliminates the prohibition against closing a post office solely for running a deficit, abolishes the Postal Service’s obligation to provide rural communities and small towns with “a maximum degree” of postal services, and restricts the present statutory right of communities to seek appellate review of post office closures that are arbitrary, capricious, or illegal.

- Section 112 eliminates transparency from the post office discontinuance decisions, and abolishes citizen due process rights in post office closings.
- Section 112 authorizes the USPS to close all small town and rural post offices.
- Section 112 permits the USPS to provide inferior level of postal services to rural America.

The National Association of Postmasters of the United States is a 38,000-member organization that represents the managers-in-charge of the our nation’s post offices, and retired Postmasters.