

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

April 4, 2024

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We are writing on behalf of our constituents to express our concerns with the United States Postal Service (USPS) plan to shift mail processing operations from Corpus Christi and McAllen to a centralized processing facility in San Antonio. In recent months, we have seen processing and distribution centers in Houston overloaded by new streams of mail, after the implementation of the USPS *Delivering for America* (DFA) plan. Small businesses and residential customers in our districts depend on reliable USPS service to send packages, receive medications, pay bills, and vote in elections. Our communities have serious concerns about the impact of a new, centralized San Antonio processing facility will have on local USPS operations. We request that you halt any proposed changes to the Corpus Christi, McAllen, and San Antonio P&DC until these concerns are addressed.

The Initial Findings Document (IFD) for Corpus Christi Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) suggests that the USPS will save at least \$240,000 in mail processing by converting the Corpus Christi P&DC to a Local Processing Center (LPC) and moving all outgoing mail processing operations to the San Antonio P&DC, which is about 143 miles away. Under this plan, mail sent within Corpus Christi would leave the city to be processed more than 280 miles away before returning to the final destination. The USPS is also considering moving McAllen's P&DC to San Antonio, a nearly 500-mile round trip. We have serious concerns that these proposed plans will negatively impact our constituents throughout South Texas.

While the USPS has laid out its plan to install new mail sorting equipment at the Corpus Christi and McAllen P&DC, we are concerned that USPS has not thoroughly assessed the level of resources needed to immediately accommodate a much higher volume of mail at the San Antonio P&DC.

It is our understanding that the San Antonio P&DC facility is too old and too small to house new equipment necessary to sort more mail. The facility is already struggling to process normal mail streams. Just this past holiday season, several local news stations reported that the San Antonio USPS had a major backlog of packages to deliver. On February 16, Alex Aleman, President of the San Antonio American Postal Workers Union, said that San Antonio is not equipped to

handle the increased influx of mail.¹ Several local unions, including Alamo Branch 421, believe San Antonio can only process these new sources of mail once a new regional processing center (RPC) has been built, as prescribed by the DFA plan.

We hope you can appreciate the consequences that moving two processing and distribution centers for major cities will have on San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and McAllen mail operations, especially after the recent events in Houston. USPS is a lifeline for Texas communities, and any delay in mail delivery has consequences for our constituents and local economies. Local mail in these cities already takes 2-3 days to be delivered. We find it hard to believe that our constituents will not face slower delivery times.

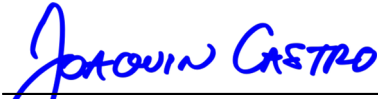
Due to these concerns, we request answers to the following questions:

1. Please provide a detailed proposal outlining how the USPS believes the San Antonio P&DC can accommodate new streams of mail from Corpus Christi and McAllen.
 - a. What resources will USPS immediately commit to the San Antonio P&DC to accommodate the increased volume of mail?
2. Why does the USPS believe that sending local mail for processing and distribution over 200 miles away will not result in increased local mail delivery time for Corpus Christi or McAllen?
3. When will construction on San Antonio's RPC start?
 - a. Will the USPS commit to pause transferring of mail sorting facilities to San Antonio until the RPC is completed?
4. Are there any alternatives to the proposed plan that have been considered for Corpus Christi and McAllen, and if so, what are they?
5. What measures has the USPS considered to mitigate any disruptions in mail delivery services for Corpus Christi, McAllen, and San Antonio residents and businesses during the relocation process?
6. Will election-related mail be processed locally in Corpus Christi and McAllen? If not, why not?
7. Please explain how the USPS expects to save between \$2,100,000 and \$2,800,000 in annual transportation costs by moving Corpus Christi's mail processing operations to San Antonio.

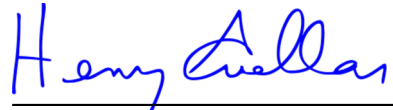
We request that you promptly halt any proposed changes to Corpus Christi, McAllen, and San Antonio P&DC until there is sufficient evidence to show that mail in all 3 cities will not be disrupted. Please email your answers to Ishmael.Abuabara@mail.house.gov by April 18th, 2024.

¹ ["This is all a formality": Residents speak out against USPS changes \(kristv.com\)](https://www.kristv.com/story/11111111)

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress