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THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 22, 2024

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Postmaster Dayton Descant  
200 S Wing St  
Northville, MI 48167-1544

Dear Postmaster Descant:

This letter is regarding the planned closure of the Salem Post Office in Salem Township, Michigan. The Salem Township community depends on the services of the United States Postal Service (USPS) to send and receive important mail, bills, packages, and even medications. I am concerned that the closure of this post office will create barriers that significantly hinder their ability to utilize the USPS to send and receive these essential goods.

Salem Township Residents have recently shared serious concerns regarding the potential impact of this impending closure. This closure appears to be part of a larger plan from the USPS to close about 3,000 small contract post offices, primarily impacting rural communities like Salem Township. Americans depend on timely and efficient access to their mail, especially those who live in rural communities who rely on delivery for access to goods and services that are not easily accessible.

Salem Township Residents reported receiving letters from the post office notifying them that it is closing on October 15th, 2024. Specifically, residents within the Salem Hamlet were notified that they are not eligible for street delivery unless their homes are on road frontage, and that this decision will not be reevaluated. The only option in this case would be for residents to pick up their mail at the Northville Post Office. Not only is this location miles away from the homes of Salem Township residents, but residents will also have to change and register their address to pick up their mail. Addresses on Six Mile outside of the Hamlet will also be able to register for delivery if they put up a mailbox for street delivery. While the post office intends to have local box delivery returned to Salem Township using cluster mailboxes, residents have not received information regarding a timetable for this plan. Finally, the Salem Township Supervisor has offered to work with the USPS to place a large cluster mailbox at alternate locations including the Township Hall or the Old Rider House to ease the burden on residents, but has not received a clear response from the Postal Service on the feasibility of this option.

It is critical for Salem Township residents to have convenient, accessible mailbox locations. To that end, I am requesting information on why the Salem Post Office is closing, and what plans are being put in place to ensure that there is minimal impact to mail services. The Salem Post Office provides essential mail and package delivery services to neighborhoods across Salem Township, and it is critical that residents continue to access these services with as little disruption as possible. Please let me know what support is necessary to ensure residents receive consistent and timely mail deliveries. I look forward to working with you to ensure the community is well served by USPS.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress