

Senator Casperson offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 192.

A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to stop the U.S. Postal Service from closing and consolidating the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan.

Whereas, The United States Postal Service plans to close the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan, and consolidate services 100 miles away in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The closure is scheduled to take effect on January 5, 2015; and

Whereas, The consolidation will severely delay mail delivery and result in a degradation of postal service standards by virtually eliminating overnight first-class mail delivery in large portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Kingsford mail processing center is the only center serving the entire Upper Peninsula. The consolidation will require mail to travel up to 230 miles simply for processing and slow current one-day, first-class mail service to two- or three-day service in the Upper Peninsula; and

Whereas, This consolidation is not in the public's best interest. For the past four years, the state of Michigan has looked to the Upper Peninsula and its natural resources as a means for sparking economic growth. This degradation of mail service sends a negative message to developers and investors. In addition, current Upper Peninsula business owners rely greatly on the U.S. Postal Service for their mail and shipping needs. The expected delays will negatively affect these local businesses, particularly small businesses, and residents; and

Whereas, The inevitable delays in mail service run directly counter to federal postal policy established by the U.S. Congress. Section 101 of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 stipulates:

“The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities.”

It is difficult to conceive how this closure meets the U.S. Postal Service's obligation to provide "prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to stop the U.S. Postal Service from closing and consolidating the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Postmaster General of the United States, and the Office of the Governor.