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DEFAZIO PRESS CONFERENCE ON CHANGES TO U.S. POSTAL SERVICE □ □ □

WASHINGTON, DC-- U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) will hold a press conference on the changes to U.S. Postal Service at **1:30pm December 9th**. The location of the press conference has changed. It will now be held in the State Farm Insurance parking lot at 1084 Postal Way, Springfield, OR, across from the north side of the USPS Gateway Processing Facility.

USPS announced earlier this week, that it will move forward on a plan to end next day mail service, severely restrict service to rural communities, close processing facilities significantly delaying mail service, and ultimately lay off an estimated 100,000 people.

The Gateway Mail Processing Center, which services all of Southern Oregon, is in jeopardy of being closed. In fiscal year 2011 the Gateway Distribution Center processed 349 million pieces of mail, a 10% increase over the previous year.

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SCHEDULED SPEAKERS

Congressman Peter DeFazio

Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg

Kevin Card, president of Oregon State Association of Letter Carriers Union

Scott Olson, *owner of the Springfield Times, Creswell Chronicle and two other mail-dependent papers*

Barbara Sumner, senior citizen, who will talk about impact loss of service will have for her

Jim Williams, General Manager of The Duck Store

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DeFazio plans to discuss two pieces of legislation he introduced to help solve the serious financial issues facing the USPS without seriously disrupting postal service in rural communities.

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BACKGROUND ON DEFAZIO'S LEGISLATION

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HR 3591, Postal Service Protection Act

- Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

- The bill fixes the immediate fiscal problems faced by USPS by allowing them to recover overpayments made to its pension plans. Estimates show that the Postal Service has overpaid by anywhere from \$7 to 50 billion.

- The bill eliminates the required \$5 billion a year pre-funding of future retiree health benefits.

- The bill prevents closure of rural post offices by giving the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRG) binding authority to prevent closures based on the effect on the community and on employees; not just profit. Currently the PRG only acts in an advisory role.

- The bill requires strict delivery standards for 1st class mail delivery that would make it more difficult to close area mail processing centers.

- The bill would statutorily require 6 day delivery.

- The bill establishes new ways for USPS to generate revenue by providing non-postal services like new media services, issuance of licenses, shipment of beer and wine and shifting more toward electronic mail.

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HR 3592, Protecting Rural Post Office Act

- Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

- The bill precludes USPS from closing any post office which results in more than 10 miles between any 2 post offices.

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