

Kate Brown

secretary of state

Barry Pack

deputy secretary of state

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### **Proposal to cut U.S. Postal Service**

#### **Statement by: Secretary of State Kate Brown**

I want to thank Congressman Peter Defazio for his commitment to Oregonians. Although I cannot be with you today, I wanted to make sure my opposition to reductions in service at the U.S. Postal Service was heard.

Oregonians have a unique relationship with the U.S. Postal Service. In 1998, Oregonians approved an all Vote-By-Mail voting system. Since Vote-By-Mail was instituted our great state has consistently ranked in the top 10 nationally for voter turnout. Vote-By-Mail is accessible, convenient and cost effective. I believe we have the best voting system in the nation. That success is in part due to the fabulous relationship we have with our regional partners at the U.S. Postal Service.

Last year, when the U.S. Postal Service, proposed to cut Saturday service, I adamantly

opposed that change and traveled to Washington D.C. to testify in front of the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission. The most recent proposal that includes the closure of four processing centers in Oregon causes me great concern for rural Oregonians and our Vote-By-Mail system.

Thank you.