

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1501

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that the United States Postal Service may not close, consolidate, or sell any historic postal facility without prior congressional approval, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2015

Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. PIERLUISI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that the United States Postal Service may not close, consolidate, or sell any historic postal facility without prior congressional approval, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Moratorium on United States Postal Facilities Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States Postal Service is an
2 American institution dating back to the colonial era.

3 (2) The United States Postal Service is the core
4 of a \$1 trillion mailing industry that employs more
5 than 8 million people.

6 (3) In 2013, the United States Postal Service
7 processed 158 billion pieces of mail, handled 40 per-
8 cent of the world's mail volume, paid \$3.6 billion
9 every month in salaries and benefits, employed
10 104,700 veterans, and managed 31,272 retail of-
11 fices.

12 (4) The United States Postal Service employs a
13 Federal preservation officer and a historian.

14 (5) The United States Postal Service has a di-
15 verse fine arts collection consisting of works of art
16 from many different sources and programs.

17 (6) The United States Postal Service houses
18 more than 1,400 murals and sculptures from Presi-
19 dent Roosevelt's New Deal programs in its post of-
20 fices around the Nation.

21 (7) Most of the post office works of art were
22 funded through commissions under the Treasury De-
23 partment's Section of Painting and Sculpture and
24 Section of Fine Arts.

1 (8) As of December 2013, 880 postal buildings
2 are listed on the National Historic Register.

3 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR CLO-**
4 **SURE, CONSOLIDATION, OR SALE OF HIS-**
5 **TORIC POSTAL FACILITIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of title 39, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(f)(1) The Postal Service may not close, consolidate,
10 sell, or otherwise dispose of any historic postal facility
11 without prior written approval from the Committee on
12 Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
14 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

15 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘historic postal facil-
16 ity’ means any postal facility listed, or eligible to be listed,
17 in the National Register of Historic Places.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 404 of
19 title 39, United States Code, is further amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting “con-
21 sistent with the requirements of subsection (f),” be-
22 fore “to determine”; and

23 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “The Post-
24 al Service” and inserting “Subject to the require-
25 ments of subsection (f), the Postal Service”.

1 (c) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by sub-
2 section (a) shall apply to any historic postal facility, in-
3 cluding any such facility that is listed as for sale by the
4 United States Postal Service as of the date of enactment
5 of this section.

