



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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Lawmakers hold rally to save local postal service *HJM 15 urges Congress to support the Postal Service Protection Act*

SALEM – Today U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio (D – Springfield) joined House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D – Eugene) and State Representative Brian Clem (D – Salem) and other legislators at a rally on the Oregon State Capitol steps to support Congressman DeFazio's Postal Service Protection Act, which would prevent the closing of local mail processing centers and fix many long-term financial issues plaguing the United States Postal Service.

Oregon Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R – John Day) and Representatives Hoyle and Clem introduced House Joint Memorial 15, urging Congress to pass Congressman DeFazio's Postal Service Protection Act. Oregonian workers who are at risk of losing their jobs if Oregon mail processing centers are closed also joined today's rally to show their support of the Postal Service Protection Act.

"I'm proud of our Congressman, my colleagues, and the local employees who stood up against the manufactured financial crisis that is jeopardizing rural postal service and thousands of family wage jobs," Representative Hoyle said.

The federal legislation would protect six-day delivery, eliminate the requirement that the United States Postal Service make 75 years' worth of retiree health care benefit payments to its pension plans, and prevent the closure of many rural post offices.

"In Oregon, we vote by mail. Every time the USPS is forced to close one of our post offices, it impacts our elections process because every post office is a ballot box," Representative Hoyle said. "We must take steps now to protect this vital public service."

The legislators are urging Oregonians to sign Congressman DeFazio's "We the People" petition to the White House. If 100,000 people sign the petition by May 24, 2013, the Obama Administration will take a position on this important issue.

HJM 15 will receive a public hearing in the House Rules Committee on Wednesday, May 1st.

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The "We the People" petition started by Congressman DeFazio is available here:
<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/save-postal-service-save-american-jobs/drCmyCHZ>