



HR0685

LRB097 16033 GRL 61185 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service (USPS) has announced plans to study the potential closure or conversion of post offices in the City of Springfield, including the Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. (Springfield Main) post office located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield; and

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WHEREAS, Springfield is the capital of the State of Illinois and the home of Abraham Lincoln, a former postmaster of New Salem from 1833 to 1836, and later the 16th President of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. was a Springfield native who fought for the United States during World War I, earning the Silver Star for his gallantry; he worked for the USPS for 57 years and was the first black person to obtain the rank of Colonel in the United States Army Reserves; and

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WHEREAS, The post offices in Springfield under consideration for closure serve a population of approximately 150,000 residents; the main post office in Springfield is located in an area which consists of more than 75% minority population and where the median annual household income is less than \$16,000; and

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1 WHEREAS, The USPS was established under the provisions of
2 the United States Constitution, and is charged under the
3 principles of universal service obligation to provide a range
4 of products, access to services and facilities, delivery
5 frequency, affordable and uniform pricing, service quality,
6 and security of the mail; and

7 WHEREAS, Many residents of the affected neighborhoods do
8 not have easy access to transportation and must rely upon
9 postal service centers within walking distance or within close
10 proximity to homes and businesses; and

11 WHEREAS, It is anticipated that if the Springfield
12 Processing and Distribution Center is closed, the mail
13 processing will be transferred to and consolidated with the St.
14 Louis Processing and Distribution Center (St. Louis P&DC); and

15 WHEREAS, In the Audit Report of Postal Service Performance
16 During the 2010 Fall Mailing Season, issued September 7, 2011,
17 the St. Louis P & DC had the second highest percentage of
18 delayed mail as a percent of first-handled pieces, which was
19 caused from not adjusting mail flow, sort plans, and staffing
20 timely to meet operational requirements and from not accurately
21 identifying and reporting delayed mail; and

22 WHEREAS, The Audit Report noted that the service scores for

1 the St. Louis P & DC generally lagged behind the national
2 service scores; and

3 WHEREAS, The tourism industry, which is a substantial
4 portion of the local economy, also contributes substantial
5 demand for postal services, including the first day issuances
6 of a number of commemorative items celebrating the home town of
7 Abraham Lincoln; and

8 WHEREAS, The closure of the Springfield Post Office will
9 have a dramatic negative impact on mail service throughout
10 central Illinois, including the occurrence of substantial
11 delays for mail service by using the St. Louis P & DC instead
12 of the Springfield Post Office, the inability to obtain metered
13 mail from the home town of Abraham Lincoln, and the additional
14 expense incurred for local mail to be sent for processing to
15 and from the St. Louis P & DC; and

16 WHEREAS, Closure of post offices in the City of Springfield
17 will likely result in a loss of jobs in the inner-city at a
18 time of economic recession that disproportionately affects the
19 lives and livelihoods of inner-city residents; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we urge the Postmaster General and the U.S. Postal Regulatory

1 Commission to maintain full postal services in the City of
2 Springfield that provide all residents with uniform access to
3 affordable, secure and dependable mail delivery, postal boxes,
4 and related services; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we further urge the USPS to provide
6 meaningful opportunities for public input in the process of
7 studying potential closure or conversion of post offices in the
8 City of Springfield, including the timely scheduling of public
9 meetings accessible to all residents; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That any residents, business owners, and all
11 others interested in maintaining and promoting access to
12 affordable, dependable, and secure postal services in the City
13 of Springfield are urged to express their concerns to the USPS
14 by contacting the Postmaster General, the U.S. Postal
15 Regulatory Commission, and the Springfield Postmaster and to
16 attend and participate in public meetings on these matters; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 delivered to the members of the Illinois congressional
20 delegation, the United States Postmaster General, the United
21 States Postal Regulatory Commission, and the Springfield
22 Postmaster.