

JOHN E. POTTER
POSTMASTER GENERAL, CEO



June 21, 2006

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1502

Dear Senator Harkin:

This responds to your May 30 letter, co-signed by Senator Charles E. Grassley and Representative Steven King, regarding the Postal Service's Area Mail Processing (AMP) study of originating mail processing operations in Sioux City, Iowa.

It is incumbent upon all businesses and government entities to constantly review their operations and make necessary adjustments to improve both service and efficiency. The Postal Service has a long and successful history of improving operational efficiencies and making service improvements to our national mail processing network by implementing AMPs. The process has been reviewed by the Government Accountability Office and is a fair mechanism for balancing efficiency and service.

Having said that, we welcome your requested review of the Sioux City proposal by the Postal Service's Office of Inspector General. The Postal Service will withhold a decision on this proposal until the Office of Inspector General completes its review and presents its findings. Upon receipt of those findings, we will make a final decision on the Sioux City AMP study and notify your office accordingly.

Sincerely,


John E. Potter