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HOUSE MEMORIAL 58

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Rodolpho “Rudy” S. Martinez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING NEW MEXICO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO KEEP RURAL POST OFFICES OPEN AND TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE USES OF NEW MEXICO'S RURAL POST OFFICES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF RURAL NEW MEXICANS.

WHEREAS, the post office is a public service with a civic mandate central to American business, society and civic culture; and

WHEREAS, the United States postal service is the backbone of a mailing and shipping industry that employs more than eight million five hundred thousand people and supports almost one trillion dollars (\$1,000,000,000,000) in economic activity every year; and

WHEREAS, the postal service is the country's second-largest civilian employer next to Walmart; and

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1           WHEREAS, low-cost parcel delivery by the United States  
2 postal service operates as a check on the pricing policies of  
3 private sector carriers; and

4           WHEREAS, under pressure from the United States congress,  
5 the United States postal service has decided to reduce  
6 operations at rural post offices; and

7           WHEREAS, according to some estimates, the expected savings  
8 from reducing the hours that rural post offices operate or from  
9 closing rural post offices altogether will not materially  
10 impact the postal service's budget shortfall; and

11           WHEREAS, for many small towns and rural areas, the post  
12 office is a vital community center; and

13           WHEREAS, rural post offices in Aragon, Capulin, Cuervo,  
14 Coyote, Encino, Gladstone, Holman, La Loma, St. Vrain,  
15 Trementina, Mills and Fort Stanton have been proposed for  
16 closure; and

17           WHEREAS, *El Defensor Chieftain* reports that rural post  
18 offices in Lemitar, Luna, Pie Town, Polvadera, San Acacia, San  
19 Antonio and La Joya are facing reductions in weekday operating  
20 hours; and

21           WHEREAS, these closings run counter to a recent New Mexico  
22 state university study of rural New Mexico economic conditions  
23 and trends that concluded that infrastructure and services to  
24 the state's increasingly educated rural population and work  
25 force is essential to establishing new businesses, creating

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1 jobs and building communities; and

2 WHEREAS, other countries with rural populations, such as  
3 India, recognize that post offices offer an existing network  
4 that can be used to improve the quality of life and economic  
5 well-being of people living in isolated and remote areas;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that New Mexico's  
8 congressional delegation be requested to support keeping New  
9 Mexico's rural post offices open and to support innovative uses  
10 of rural post offices to improve the lives and economic  
11 opportunities of rural New Mexicans; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to each member of New Mexico's congressional  
14 delegation and to the postmaster general of the United States  
15 postal service.

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