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Testimony before the U.S. Postal Service
Area Mail Processing (AMP) Feasibility Study

November 30, 2011

Ms. Falling Star and staff of the U.S. Postal Service, I am Chris Kershner, Vice President of Public Policy & Economic Development at the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and its 2,700 businesses and 200,000 employees throughout the 9 county Dayton region.

As the largest business association in the region, we believe it is not only our mission, but it is our responsibility to represent the needs of the job creating business community. The Dayton area business community is a significant user of the U.S. Postal Service, as they rely on the postal service to reach thousands of customers, clients, vendors and individuals on a daily basis. The Dayton metro market boasts over 19,000 businesses and a regional population of over 1.2 million people. We truly believe that a demographic of this size and diversity is not only deserving of their own mail processing facility, but it is necessary to ensure quality and efficient delivery of mail.

We believe that the Area Mail Processing feasibility study has not taken into account the significant impact that these changes will have on the area business community. Not only does it logistically inefficient to have mail originate in Dayton, travel to Columbus to be processed, and then return to Dayton for delivery, but it will also result in underserved delays for the business community. Even a 1 day delay in mail delivery, could be devastating for businesses that are reliant on expedited communications to customers and clients. In an era when businesses are making strategic decisions to relocate out of this country, we should be doing everything possible to create a public environment that encourages business investment. These proposed changes would do just the opposite and would highlight an anti-business environment to our hard working employers.

As an alternative to relocating the Dayton mail processing facility to Columbus, the Chamber would propose that an operational efficiency study be conducted that takes into account all overhead, administrative and operational costs of the Dayton mail processing facility. We believe that the U.S. Postal Service could identify significant savings if such a study was conducted without impacting business mail delivery in the Dayton area. The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce is happy to offer the assistance and expertise of our staff to assist in such study with the U.S. Postal Service.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.