

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (MO-08) today responded to a statement from the U.S. Postal Service that a feasibility study would be conducted at the Richard G. Wilson Processing and Distribution Facility in Cape Girardeau. The facility was named for a Korean War hero and Medal of honor winner from Cape Girardeau in legislation Emerson sponsored and which became law in 2004.

In the past several years, the USPS has reduced the number of processing facilities from 675 to 487.

"Given the fiscal challenges at the Postal Service, I get incredibly frustrated by their focus on facilities in rural communities which provide jobs and quality service rather than on the wasteful managerial structure at the top of the organization," Emerson said. "Time and time again, the Postal Service turns to rural areas of the country to cut back its service, in regions where we depend on them the most. Reducing their service is not the way to assure the survival of the Postal Service, and doing so tarnishes their reputation for reliability and convenience."

Emerson pointed out that the Cape Girardeau facility is the only Area Processing and Distribution facility in the Eighth Congressional District.

"Closing the distribution center in Cape Girardeau is not a certainty, but it would absolutely mean a delay in the mail for customers in the Eighth Congressional District. There is no reason a birthday card sent from Dexter to Poplar Bluff should have to go through St. Louis, but that is how things would work in the absence of the Wilson distribution center. The extra time and expense of trucking local mail to other centers would add to delivery time in our region, on top of other service reductions being considered by the Postal Service's leadership."

Emerson has repeatedly pushed back against USPS plans to close rural post office and reduce six-day delivery to only five days each week.