

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for many the Postal Service indeed represents the Federal Government. Post offices are the heart and soul of many small towns across America, and they are part of the heritage of every community. Yet, in many instances, people feel victimized by the Postal Service because the post office sometimes ignores local zoning laws and building codes in making decisions about their facilities.

Additionally, citizens often feel shut out of the decision-making process, despite the massive impacts that post office closings and relocations have on our communities.

Today I am introducing legislation to change this. My bill would outline minimum citizen involvement requirements that would apply to the renovation, relocation, closing, or consolidation of post offices and require the post office to comply with any local zoning or building codes which the State and local governments themselves must comply with.

My bill is fair and does not place unnecessary burdens on the Postal Service. Instead, for the first time, the Postal Service would be treated as a responsible member of the community and not be above the local laws.