

House Engrossed

restoration; Cherrybell mail processing center

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2002

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION TO FULLY RESTORE
OPERATIONS AT THE TUCSON POSTAL PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center
4 (Cherrybell) serves the entire southern portion of Arizona, covering the
5 counties of Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise. Currently, Southern Arizona is
6 facing a potential economic downturn due to the initial decision made by
7 the United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors to close
8 Cherrybell; and

9 Whereas, more than 1.8 million people and 23,197 businesses use the
10 Cherrybell postal services. According to USPS officials, over 2.6 million
11 pieces of mail go through Cherrybell each day as it is the 15th largest
12 facility serving the 33rd largest population area in our nation. The
13 processing and sorting operations at Cherrybell that are proposed to be
14 moved to Phoenix affect approximately 300 jobs in Southern Arizona; and

15 Whereas, Southern Arizona, which includes both the Tohono O'odham
16 nation and Pascua Yaqui tribal lands, encompasses the California and
17 Arizona border at Yuma, south to Nogales and across to Douglas and Bisbee
18 in Cochise County and the military installations located at Fort Huachuca
19 and Davis Monthan, and depends on the Cherrybell Post office; and

20 Whereas, Southern Arizona is home to many military veterans who
21 depend on the USPS both for timely delivery of medical prescriptions and
22 for employment, as the USPS employs more veterans than any entity other
23 than the United States Department of Defense; and

24 Whereas, in an extensive community survey conducted in 2015, 84% of
25 individuals and 86% of businesses reported a noticeable delay in mail
26 delivery due to the partial closure of Cherrybell; and

27 Whereas, consolidating the processing of mail services to Phoenix
28 will result in further mail delivery delays for Tucson. The Phoenix
29 postal processing facilities have struggled to handle the existing volume
30 of mail they are responsible for due to staffing shortages and other
31 operational challenges, which demonstrates the need to improve processing
32 capacity in this state; and

33 Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance
34 of reliable postal delivery; and

35 Whereas, Tucson City Council Member Richard Fimbres went on record
36 opposing the closure of Cherrybell and requested that the Council work
37 directly with Tucson's congressional delegation and community members to
38 frame a campaign to protect the vital jobs at Cherrybell; and

39 Whereas, former Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez objected to
40 the closure of Cherrybell and firmly believed that, due to the higher
41 number of voters each year on the permanent early voting list, this change
42 would clearly impact the activities of the state and county elections
43 officials in Arizona and would cause a detrimental impact to voters. The
44 information provided to the public by the USPS is based entirely on
45 economic considerations with no apparent regard for the impact of the

1 change on the fundamental right of all citizens to vote and, in
2 particular, the significant additional detrimental impact to Native
3 American voters in the region; and

4 Whereas, the people of Arizona applaud the efforts of United States
5 Senators Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly, Representatives Raul Grijalva and
6 Ann Kirkpatrick and the other members of the Arizona Congressional
7 Delegation who have asked for more detailed and complete information
8 regarding the proposal Cherrybell closure; and

9 Whereas, thousands of people have written letters and signed online
10 petitions urging the USPS Board of Governors not to close the Cherrybell
11 mail processing center.

12 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
13 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

14 1. That the Congress of the United States protest the proposed
15 closing of the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center and take
16 any action necessary to fully restore operations of this vital postal
17 facility.

18 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
19 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the
20 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of
21 Congress from the State of Arizona.