March 28, 2012

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Henry Waxman

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, Congresswoman Janice Hahn and Congressman Henry Waxman

RE: Support for S1789 for S1853/HR3591

As you know, our historic Venice Main Post Office (VMPO) at 1601 Main Street is for sale and subject to imminent closure. We ask for your support to stop this action as soon as possible.

Our Venice Post Office (VMPO) was designed in the Spanish Revival style in 1939 and is widely recognized as an important historic resource. It also houses a mural depicting the early history of Venice, by renowned artist Edward Biberman. VMPO's confluence of art, architecture and public service to our community for seventy- two years is deeply appreciated and highly valued by Venetians and Coastal visitors alike. Its imminent closure has united a broad coalition of Venetians to pursue wide-ranging efforts to save it.

The USPS action will destroy this community center. Further, it will replace a fully capable postal facility with a USPS service consolidation that will fail to meet its legally required service obligation.

The Postal Service has already reduced services at VMPO: A only two of its five windows are typically open now, long lines of customers are often surprised and further frustrated to find inadequate First Class stamp supplies – the main source of USPS revenue.

USPS intends to offer only reduced services at an alternate facility. By this transfer, USPS defines its action as a "relocation" rather than a "closure," thus allowing USPS to avoid the scrutiny required of proposed closures. This also denies VMPO protection under the recently announced post office closure moratorium, enabling quick closure and sale of VMPO, according to USPS officials.

The Venice Neighborhood Council fully supports our community's efforts to preserve our historic post office for postal service to forty thousand Venetians and millions of visitors. As such, we ask two things:

• That you apply urgent attention to protect our Venice Main Post Office under the

moratorium umbrella. The USPS should be urged to include the VMPO in the moratorium to allow for further public input in addressing the closure of this important historic resource.

• That you prioritize preserving the robust service level and capacity which the US Postal Service has provided by law to the American people for nearly two and a half centuries. We applaud your efforts to amend S1789; we further ask that you support S1853/HR3591, with its multiple initiatives to provide adequate review, relieve the US Postal Service of excessive funding burdens and introduce long-term fiscal balance and innovation incentives. By exercising leadership today to save our country's most trusted public service, you can restore trust that Congress can do what is right for Americans during challenging times. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. We look forward to supporting your progress to save Venice Main Post Office and so many others.

Sincerely,

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Linda Lucks, President

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