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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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John M. Fowler  
Executive Director  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F St. NW, Suite 308  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2637

Dear Mr. Fowler:

This letter is to convey my concern with the United States Postal Service's (USPS) compliance with Section 106 as it pursues the demolition of the USPS facility located at 1351 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Napa, California.

Built in 1933 in the art deco style and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, this post office is a rare and treasured architectural gem in our community. Unfortunately, the building suffered structural damage in the August 2014 earthquake which rendered it uninhabitable. The USPS claims that it cannot afford the cost of both renovation and seismic retrofitting. However, rather than exhaust alternative options to preserve the building, the USPS initiated a Section 106 consultation process with demolition as the undertaking. I have heard from individuals in our community who are interested in purchasing the building and re-purposing it, while maintaining its historical and architectural integrity. I find it unacceptable that the USPS would pursue demolition of an historical post office when alternative options for preservation have not been exhausted.

Further, the USPS has not engaged the public in a meaningful dialogue throughout this process. Though a public comment period is being held, the community feels that this is a mere formality given the USPS's premature determination that demolition is not only the most likely, but the preferable solution.

I ask that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation intercede in this matter to ensure that the voices of all those concerned are not only heard, but given serious consideration, and that the USPS does not overlook viable alternatives to demolition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Member of Congress