

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 17, 2020

Mr. Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260-3500

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

As members of Oregon's congressional delegation, we write to strongly condemn your recent actions that have unacceptably slowed mail delivery across Oregon and the nation.

The United States Postal Service has delivered mail reliably for our country through the most challenging moments in our history—the Civil War, the 1918 Pandemic, the Great Depression and two World Wars. Your recent changes, including a significant restructuring of USPS's leadership and the elimination of overtime and daily completed delivery, will seriously undermine the USPS's ability to meet the demonstrated need for its services during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and upcoming November general election. USPS needs support and investment to continue reliably serving all Americans and our constituents, not arbitrary bureaucratic hurdles and slowdowns.

In July, you instructed mail carriers to “leave mail behind at distribution centers” if mail could not be completely distributed without overtime, and you eliminated overtime, which letter carriers typically use to complete mail distribution. This needless and reckless change in precedent has already led to delayed delivery of bills, checks and prescription drugs. One Oregonian reported sending a bill payment from deeply rural Eastern Oregon to Los Angeles, California that took over three weeks to be delivered. He was charged significant late fees as a result. An Oregonian's small business is suffering because they can no longer safely rely on overnight delivery for perishable food shipments. Another Oregonian's vital medication was delayed for a week, causing her to miss doses and literally put her life at risk due to your manufactured and partisan delivery delays. Countless other Oregonians have also run out of their medications due to these unprecedented changes. We are glad to hear that USPS is halting the removal of collection boxes across the country, as those removals may also impact the accessibility of USPS to our constituents.

If USPS does not revert to proven methods, your instruction to leave mail behind will certainly result in delayed delivery of Oregonians' ballots come November. This is shockingly dangerous, undemocratic and unacceptable.

Recent reporting indicates the Postal Service is changing standard practice yet again to delay delivery of ballots. USPS normally treats ballots as First Class mail, with a typical delivery timeline of two to five days. Should USPS arbitrarily refuse to treat ballots as First Class mail,

delivery times could be significantly extended, and Oregonians are already experiencing weeks-long delays to their mail. In Oregon, ballots will be mailed to most voters on October 14 for the November 3 election. Unexpected delays at any point during this window could easily prevent Oregonians' and Americans' ballots from counting in the November 3 general election. USPS' own General Counsel Thomas Marshall has said the same. Make no mistake: We consider these contrived delays to be blatant election interference.

President Donald Trump admitted to such interference on the morning of Thursday, August 13, when he stated in a live interview, "Now, the[ USPS] need[s] that money in order to make the Post Office work, so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots... Now, if we don't make a deal, that means they don't get the money. That means they can't have universal mail-in voting, they just can't have it." We in Congress are working to provide significant funding for USPS to ensure both its long-term solvency and capacity to handle an influx of mail-in ballots this fall. If you and the President are truly concerned about the capability of USPS to deliver for Americans, you should work with House, Senate and Executive leadership to fix the problem—not further cut service standards under the guise of operational efficiencies.

Oregonians have successfully and safely voted by mail for over 20 years. Deployed military members have been voting by mail even longer, since the Civil War. Rural Oregonians have long relied on the USPS to deliver where private companies will not. The Postal Service is a constitutionally-established entity with a mandate to serve all Americans, regardless of zip code, and over hundreds of years our nation has developed a unique reliance on the Postal Service. It is shameful and disheartening to watch partisan actions consume this proud American institution that connects Oregon to its neighbors and our nation. We demand on behalf of our constituents that you rescind your orders and restore full service and functionality to the Postal Service immediately.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



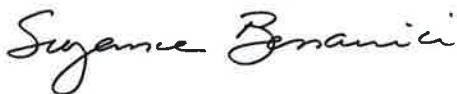
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress