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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

August 3, 2020

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to provide information about recent and troubling changes taking place in post offices and processing centers across the country and to ask that you share any concerns constituents, state officials, or postal workers raise with you regarding negative impacts on mail delivery.

Last month, reports emerged of operational changes imposed by the new Postmaster General, including eliminating overtime and restrictions on certain letter carrier activities.¹ Since then, I have heard from many constituents and postal workers in Michigan who have observed an increase in delayed mail. Additional reports suggest that these changes may be resulting in delays and service problems across the country.²

I have pressed the Postmaster General for answers about these recent changes – but have not received satisfactory responses about how mail delivery and service have been impacted. It is critical that the Postal Service does not slow down mail, or in any way compromise service for veterans, small businesses, rural communities, seniors, and millions of Americans who rely on the mail – including significant numbers who will be relying on the Postal Service to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming election. Millions of Americans count on the Postal Service to deliver their prescriptions, Social Security checks, groceries, and other supplies.

As I examine the scope and scale of these service problems, I appreciate any information you are able to share about recent service issues in your state. To share accounts or concerns you have received from postal workers, local election officials, businesses, or others who rely on timely mail service, please have your staff contact Claudine Brenner at claudine_brenner@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member

¹ *Leaked USPS PowerPoint indicates PMG DeJoy focus on getting operating costs under control*, Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, <https://www.nonprofitmailers.org/leaked-usps-powerpoint-indicates-pmg-dejoy-focus-on-getting-operating-costs-under-control> (July 14, 2020); *Internal USPS document tells employees to leave mail at distribution centers*, Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/internal-usps-document-tells-employees-to-leave-mail-at-distributioncenters/> (July 14, 2020).

² *Postal Service backlog sparks worries that ballot delivery could be delayed in November*, Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/postal-service-backlog-sparks-worries-that-ballot-delivery-could-be-delayed-in-november/> (July 30, 2020); *Pending Postal Service Changes Could Delay Mail and Deliveries*, Advocates Warn, NPR (July 29, 2020).