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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
 HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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March 18, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
 Postmaster General
 United States Postal Service
 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write to express my significant concerns about the U.S. Postal Service's lack of transparency regarding planned changes to its processing and delivery network, and its insufficient responses to my December 5, 2023 letter about these changes. The Postal Service must be transparent about these network changes and their impacts on local service and communities.

My December 5 letter requested detailed information about the full scope and timelines for the network changes, how USPS has assessed the projected service impacts, and additional information about impacts to employees and communities.¹ USPS has not provided sufficient answers about the impacts of its network plans. In particular, USPS has failed to provide: any detailed assessments regarding the projected service impacts of these changes (for individual facilities and for the plan as a whole); any indication it will systematically study the impacts of initial changes before moving forward with its plan; timelines for the facility changes it intends to implement, including in 2024; and detailed information on additional impacts including costs, employee attrition, and other effects. I am disappointed by the quality and quantity of the information provided, given that USPS plans affect communities across the nation.

USPS continues to move forward with facility changes, despite unanswered questions about the impacts on communities — and despite USPS's initial promises that it would study the impacts of early changes before moving forward with its plan.² On February 15, I sent a letter highlighting concerns after USPS announced a potential facility change in Michigan.³ The nature of USPS's network changes has now raised significant concerns including the potential for degraded rural service due to fewer facilities, delayed delivery of election mail that would be processed at out-of-state facilities, and critical health information such as laboratory tests not

¹ Letter from Chairman Gary C. Peters to Postmaster General DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service (Dec. 5, 2023) (<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/dems/peters-presses-for-transparency-on-potential-impacts-of-postal-services-network-plan/>).

² U.S. Postal Service, *Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-5 of Chairman's Information Request No. 1*, Docket No. PI2023-4, Postal Regulatory Commission (July 19, 2023).

³ Letter from Chairman Gary C. Peters to Postmaster General DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service (Feb. 15, 2024) (https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2.15.24-Letter-Iron-Mountain-facility_final.pdf).

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being processed same-day due to decreased transportation trips. These changes and lack of transparency have also caused concerns for other Members of Congress, who have asked for similar information and received insufficient responses.

I am increasingly concerned about the pace and impacts of these changes, and reiterate my request for fully responsive answers to my questions. I also call on USPS to pause all network changes until it can clearly demonstrate that such changes will not degrade local mail service. This will be a top oversight priority for this Committee. I look forward to discussing these issues directly with you soon in addition to your full written response, which we request by April 1.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Peters
Chairman