

Ranking Member Peters Opening Statement
Full Committee Hearing: Reforming the U.S. Postal Service's Broken Business Model
June 24th, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening today's important hearing.

For more than 250 years, the United States Postal Service has helped bind our country together. It connects families, supports small businesses, and ensures that Americans nationwide can receive essential mail and goods, no matter where they live.

The Postal Service is the only carrier that delivers to every single address in the country, a feat that its for-profit competitors do not provide.

For communities across the country, particularly harder to reach rural communities, the Postal Service and its workers provide an essential public service every day.

In 2022, I was proud to lead and pass the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act, which increased transparency around postal delivery performance, ended overly burdensome retiree healthcare prefunding requirements, integrated Postal Service retirees health care with Medicare, and codified 6 day delivery service.

However, it's clear that the Postal Service continues to face significant challenges.

The Delivering for America plan has not worked. Costs are up, service is down, and customers are paying the price. The plan has not yielded the financial results needed to stabilize the Postal Service's bottom line. Over the past five fiscal years the Postal Service has posted \$9.7 billion in controllable losses. Earlier this year, Postmaster General Steiner testified in the House that the Postal Service could run out of cash as soon as this year.

Since then, the Postal Regulatory Commission gave the Postal Service flexibility on how it spends revenue from its additional rate authority, providing the Postal Service with an additional \$2.4 billion this year. The Postal Service has also temporarily suspended its normal contributions to the employee retirement plans to preserve cash.

While the Postal Service has not provided a formal estimate of exactly when it will exhaust its available funds, it's clear that Congress and the Postal Service must take action to ensure Americans continue receiving mail reliably and affordably for the next 250 years.

The Postal Service has shared some proposals with Congress that would help put it on a stronger financial footing, including investing its pension funds, revising its calculation for its Civil Service Retirement System obligation, and raising its borrowing limit. The postmaster general is also now asking Congress to consider reviving an appropriation for the Postal Service. These

proposals deserve serious review, but any reform must come with real transparency, accountability, and clear service improvement plans.

The Postal Service must also do a better job of ensuring every employee returns home safely at the end of each day. Last year, Nicholas Acker was tragically killed in an accident at the processing facility in Allen Park, Michigan. That facility was cited by OSHA on its safety standards compliance, and at my urging the Office of the Inspector General has now launched a nationwide facility safety audit. I expect the Postal Service to fully cooperate with that audit and double down on its efforts to protect all of its employees on the job.

Finally, we cannot discuss the future of the Postal Service without addressing the recently published proposed rule on voting by mail that would enable President Trump to hijack the Postal Service for his own political gain.

The Postal Service has a proud tradition dating all the way to the Civil War of successfully delivering absentee ballots. In 2024, they securely delivered almost 100 million ballots. Last year, the Postal Service reaffirmed that its job is to simply transmit the mail and explicitly said they do not administer elections.

The President's March executive order directs the Postal Service to create new "Mail in Absentee Participations Lists," which they will use to verify which voters are eligible to receive and cast ballots through the mail.

This would give the Postal Service unprecedented authority over American elections and is an unconstitutional subversion of the Postal Service's duty.

I'm disappointed that the Postal Service chose to give in to the President's illegal demands by issuing a proposed regulation that risks disenfranchising millions of eligible American voters nationwide. The Board of Governors did not even vote to approve these changes.

Under the proposed rule, states must submit each absentee voter to a new national database controlled by USPS and comply with new federal ballot mail requirements, or they will be prohibited from using the mail in voting in their elections.

The Postal Service will also conduct undefined ballot verification processes to ensure states meet these new federally imposed standards. Ultimately, the federal government will serve as the final arbiter of who can vote by mail.

Yesterday, I led the entire Democratic caucus to once again insist that the Postal Service abandon this effort, uphold the law and return to its core postal functions.

The Postal Service has one mission, to deliver the mail no matter who sends it or where it's going. Mr. Steiner, I urge you to abandon these efforts and return the Postal Service to its constitutional role of simply delivering the mail, not acting as a partisan tool for the President.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that the Postal Service must be transparent and responsive to this Committee so that we can work collaboratively together on the many issues it faces.

I hope that today's hearing will be a productive conversation about how we can work together to improve the financial position of the Postal Service and protect its ability to deliver for every American.