

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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December 15, 2020

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

Thank you for your leadership of the United States Postal Service (USPS) and for your commitment to maintaining a dialogue with Congress regarding service issues in each of our districts. Today, I write to request the permanent transfer of mail processing responsibilities for Northwest Ohio from the USPS Michigan Metroplex Facility in Pontiac, Michigan to a mail facility within the State of Ohio.

Several years ago, the USPS began to implement policies that have resulted in the closure and consolidation of mail processing facilities in Ohio. Subsequent to these policies being implemented, residents of Northwest Ohio have experienced countless delays in mail delivery, lost or discarded mail pieces, and other failures. The failure to provide dependable mail delivery services has resulted in late billing payments and penalties for constituents, delays in local judicial proceedings, reputational and monetary harm to businesses, and the violation of the right to vote, to name a few. I have tried to bring these concerns to the attention of USPS officials, including in Michigan, Northern Ohio, and Washington, D.C., with the hope that they could be addressed and remedied; unfortunately, the responses I have received over the years have been mixed at best.

Earlier this year, I wrote to you asking for the implementation of procedures to help protect Ohioan's constitutional right to vote. One of the requests was to have Northwest Ohio's mail remain in the state and processed at the Cleveland Mail Processing Plant instead of the Michigan Metroplex Facility. I was grateful to USPS for considering this request and granting it for the time period between September 16 and November 14, 2020. During this period, constituents in my district observed noticeable improvements in the delivery of their mail and we did not see a repeat of 2016 when hundreds of absentee ballots were lost.

With the evidence showing a reduction in errors for mail processed outside of the Metroplex and delivered within Northwest Ohio, I believe the USPS should develop and implement new procedures where the sorting and processing of mail originating from and bound for Northwest

Ohio would be permanently transferred back to facilities within the State of Ohio. I attempted to set up a conference call with officials from USPS to make this request but was told that no one would speak with me so that I could relay the will of my constituents. This is gravely concerning because it indicates to me and to my constituents that USPS officials are not serious about hearing and addressing our concerns, nor do they believe that they should be accountable to America's elected representatives.

Therefore, I call on you as Postmaster General to formally initiate plans, within sixty days, to permanently transfer the mail processing activities for Northwest Ohio's mail from the Michigan Metroplex back to a mail processing facility in Ohio, either in Toledo, Cleveland, or Columbus. I also request that you investigate the circumstances that have prevented a Member of Congress from discussing this request directly with USPS officials. As an elected Member of the House of Representatives, it is my responsibility to conduct oversight of government agencies, and I will continue to fight to make sure unelected bureaucrats are responsive to the American people.

I would appreciate your full and fair consideration of this request as you graciously did in August, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations, and look forward to working with you to ensure any issues with the delivery of mail can be addressed. Thank you again for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Latta', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress