

ROBERT E. LATTA

5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
REPUBLICAN LEADER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2467 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-6405

DISTRICT OFFICES:

1045 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 6
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402
(419) 354-8700

101 CLINTON STREET
SUITE 1200
DEFIANCE, OH 43512
(419) 782-1996

318 DORNEY PLAZA
ROOM 302
FINDLAY, OH 45840
(419) 422-7791

June 5, 2020

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

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

Thank you again for your continued leadership of the United States Postal Service and your commitment to maintaining a dialogue with Congress regarding service issues in each of our districts. Today, I am writing to request a formal inquiry into the possibility of transferring the mail processing responsibilities for Northwest Ohio from the USPS Michigan Metroplex Facility in Pontiac, Michigan to either the Cleveland Mail Processing Plant or the Columbus Mail Processing Plant. This request comes after years of complaints and concerns that my office has raised with the Postal Service and the continued failure of the Metroplex to process my constituents' mail in a timely fashion.

After the closure of the Toledo Mail Processing Plant in 2012, a new system was arranged where mail from Northwest Ohio was to be sent to the Michigan Metroplex for processing and sorting, before heading to its destination. Unfortunately, this process has created delays and added time to the delivery of each mail piece. In addition to delivery delays, we have also seen increased instances of lost or discarded mail. The most egregious example of this was in 2016 when hundreds of absentee ballots were lost.

Since 2016, I have tried to work with the Postal Service to get answers as to why these delays continue to occur and if the Postal Service could improve the operations at the Michigan Metroplex. I received assurances that the Postal Service took these matters seriously and were working to improve operations. Sadly, even with these assurances, I continue to receive a constant stream of complaints from my constituents about mail delivery issues, ranging from delayed mail to lost mail. Local courts have seen delayed delivery of jury summons; seniors have been forced to pay late fees because the delivery of their bill payments was slowed; and voters have had to worry about their ballots not being counted due to delivery delays.

With the continued uncertainty created by the COVID-19 health crisis, I expect that we will see a large increase in the number of voters choosing to cast their ballot through the mail this fall. That is why it is imperative that the system is working, and the mail is being delivered in a

timely fashion. I cannot place confidence in the Michigan Metroplex to accomplish this goal. That is why I would ask that your office assesses the feasibility of transferring mail processing responsibilities for Northwest Ohio to a different facility. Again, I appreciate your efforts to maintain a dialogue with my office and I ask that you consider the request and the concerns outlined above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Latta". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Latta" clearly visible.

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress