

ROBERT E. LATTA
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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May 19, 2021

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 commitment to maintaining a dialogue with Congress regarding service issues in Ohio. Today, I write to request an expansion of operations at the Toledo, OH, Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) to allow for the permanent return of mail processing responsibilities for Northwest Ohio, instead of the USPS continuing to utilize the Michigan Metroplex Facility in Pontiac, Michigan for these duties.

Over a decade ago, the USPS began to implement policies that resulted in the closure and consolidation of mail processing facilities in Ohio. One result of this new strategy was the consolidation and transfer of mail processing operations from the Toledo P&DC to the Michigan Metroplex facility. Since this decision was implemented, residents, businesses, churches, courts, and Boards of Elections in 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 loss or delay in the delivery of absentee ballots. Many of these problems, if not all, can be traced back to failures occurring at the Michigan Metroplex.

To fix the situation, I implored the USPS time and time again to improve services in Michigan by any means necessary. I was assured for years that the USPS took my concerns seriously and that the problems would be addressed through the hiring of more mail processors, the implementation of better standards and processes, and other so-called remedial actions. Unfortunately, none of these actions have proven to fix the problems with timely mail delivery in Ohio and I have lost all faith in the Metroplex's ability to effectively process my constituents' mail.

In fact, after receiving feedback from my constituents, it seems that the only action that did improve the mail processing and delivery of Northwest Ohio's mail was when the decision was made to temporarily transfer processing duties to facilities in Ohio ahead of the 2020 Presidential

Election. Given this feedback, along with the closer proximity of the Toledo P&DC to my constituents and the undeniable local benefits it would have for my constituents and businesses, I call on the USPS to develop and implement a new plan, within sixty days, to permanently transfer the mail processing activities for Northwest Ohio's mail from the Michigan Metroplex back to the Toledo P&DC.

I would appreciate your full and fair consideration of this request, 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 that reads "Robert E. Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Robert" on the left, "E." in the middle, and "Latta" on the right. The "L" in "Latta" has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right, crossing over the "t".

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress