

ROBERT E. LATTA

5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
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Congress of the United States
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August 17, 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, we write to you to request the USPS implement procedures, in coordination with the State of Ohio, to ensure the timely and accurate delivery of election-related materials prior to the November elections.

Over the past decade, the USPS has implemented plans to consolidate their operations across the State, which has resulted in the closure of several mail processing plants. The consequences of these efforts vary from district to district. For example, in Northwest Ohio, a new system was arranged where mail would 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, there was an increase in complaints from constituents about lost or discarded mail, including absentee balloting materials.

With the continued uncertainty created by the COVID-19 health crisis and the ongoing national discussions about the performance of the USPS, we urge you to work with Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose to implement procedures to protect Ohioans' constitutional right to vote. These procedures should include: 1) nightly all-clear inspections of mail facilities to ensure all election-related materials are sent out; 2) more processing carried out within Ohio at local Post Offices or Ohio-based mail processing facilities; and 3) local USPS representatives building relationships with county boards of elections and establishing intakes/drop offs for election-related materials. These suggestions are based on the procedures that were implemented before the Ohio Primary Elections that were held this past spring.

We 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 this fall do not impede our constituents' right to vote. Thank you again for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Rob Portman
United States Senator



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
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