

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 22, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to you with grave concern for the future of the United States Postal Service (Postal Service), one of our nation's most essential and trusted institutions. Your reported efforts to dismantle the Postal Service as an independent agency would directly undermine the affordability and reliability of the U.S. postal system.¹ We urge you to abandon immediately any plans that would either privatize the Postal Service or undermine the independence of the Postal Service.

On December 14, 2024, the *Washington Post* reported that you were considering actions to privatize the Postal Service's essential functions.² On February 20, 2025, the *Washington Post* reported that your Administration is preparing a plan to fire the bipartisan Postal Board of Governors and absorb the Postal Service into the Department of Commerce, "potentially throwing the 250-year-old mail provider and trillions of dollars of e-commerce transactions into turmoil."³ On February 21, 2025, it was reported that "the White House was silent on the question as to whether it is interested in privatizing the service, which is something that Trump has voiced support for in the past."⁴

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution designates Congress, not the executive branch, with exclusive power over "post Offices and post Roads."⁵ Any effort to privatize the Postal Service or move it into an executive branch department requires explicit authorization from Congress, which Congress would not provide.

¹ 39 U.S.C. § 101; Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, Pub Law No. 91-375.

² *Trump Eyes Privatizing U.S. Postal Service, Citing Financial Losses*, Washington Post (Dec. 14, 2024) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/12/14/trump-usps-privatize-plan/).

³ *Trump Expected to Take Control of USPS, Fire Postal Board, Officials Say*, Washington Post (Feb. 21, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/02/20/trump-usps-takeover-dejoy/).

⁴ *If Trump Again Moves to Privatize Postal Service, Here's What It'll Mean for Your Deliveries*, CNN Business (Feb. 21, 2025) (online at www.cnn.com/2025/02/21/business/trump-postal-service-privatization/index.html).

⁵ U.S. Const. art. I et seq.

The Postal Service functions as an independent, self-sustaining agency that relies on its own revenues, not Congress, to fund the postal network.⁶ Your unprecedented and reckless plan to dismantle the Postal Service as an independent agency would directly undermine the affordability and reliability of the U.S. postal system.⁷ This short-sighted effort will do nothing to improve delivery performance or set the Postal Service on a path of fiscal sustainability. It could instead subject the Postal Service and the entire mail network to political interference, shifting priorities of Administrations, and skyrocketing prices.

Congress prescribed a clear and critical mandate for the Postal Service: to deliver efficient, reliable, and universal service to all Americans.⁸ Your reported plans for the Postal Service would put at risk the timely, affordable delivery of life-saving medications, mail-in ballots, important financial documents, and letters from loved ones, especially in rural or less-profitable areas that the private sector refuses to service.⁹

The Administration's plans also threaten to upend the oversight and pricing of the mail. For example, all rate changes must be submitted through and approved by the congressionally-authorized and independent Postal Regulatory Commission.¹⁰ Your plan would put at risk the independence and nonpartisan actions of the Postal Regulatory Commission *and* the Postal Service, potentially allowing rates, rulemaking, and other actions to favor certain industries, individuals, and regions at the expense of the network's operational needs and universal service obligation.

We urge you to immediately withdraw all plans to dismantle one of our nation's most cherished public institutions and uphold the Postal Service's independent status as required by law.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If your staff have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,

⁶ U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, *Business or Public Service? Insights Into the Unique Laws and Regulations Applying to the Postal Service* (Aug. 2, 2024) (online at www.uspsoig.gov/reports/white-papers/business-public-service-insights).

⁷ 39 U.S.C. § 101; Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, Pub Law No. 91-375.

⁸ 39 U.S.C. § 101; Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, Pub Law No. 91-375.

⁹ See U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, *The Importance of the Postal Service in Rural Areas* (Apr. 18, 2022) (online at www.uspsoig.gov/focus-areas/focus-on/importance-postal-service-rural-areas).

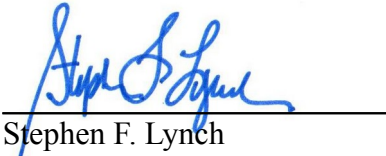
¹⁰ Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, Pub. Law No. 109-453.



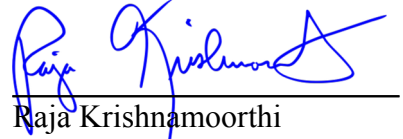
Gerald E. Connolly
Ranking Member



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



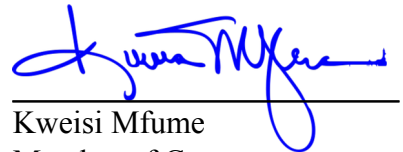
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



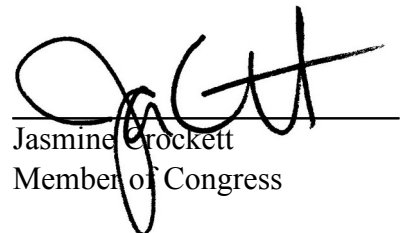
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress




Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress




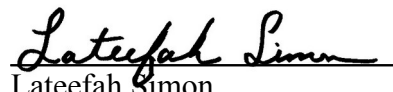
Emily Randall
Member of Congress




Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress


Wesley Bell
Member of Congress


Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress


Dave Min
Member of Congress


Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress


Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman