

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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September 8, 2020

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy
U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors
470 L'Enfant Plaza S.W., Suite 604
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. DeJoy:

During our Committee hearing on August 24, 2020, I asked if you had any contacts with the Trump campaign since you began your service as Postmaster General. You first denied that you had any such contacts. When confronted with additional facts and information, however, you ultimately admitted that you did in fact communicate with individuals associated with the campaign. The full exchange is set forth below:

Q: You made a statement before the Senate the other day, to Senator Gary Peters, you've had no contact with the Trump campaign during your tenure. Is that correct?

A: I've had no contact with the Trump campaign. I have not, I mean, I have spoken to the President. I have spoken to Steve Mnuchin. I have spoken to other people. But I have not, I've had no contact. I've not spoken to anyone about the Postal Service.

Q: Did you not tell the Board of Governors, this month in August, that in fact you had had contact with the Trump campaign, to ask them to stop their attacks on the Postal Service and voting by mail?

A: I have put word around to different people that please—that this is not helpful to—

Q: So, you did have contact with the Trump campaign? For a good purpose?

A: I'm trying to think of where—if the Trump—when you say the Trump campaign, I've not spoken to Trump campaign, uh, leadership in that regard. I've spoken to people that are friends of mine that are associated with the campaign, yes.¹

¹ Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on Protecting the Timely Delivery of Mail, Medicine, and*

Given your testimony, I sent a follow-up letter on August 26, 2020, requesting documents and information relating to the people with whom you had contact, the dates when each of these communications occurred, and a detailed description of the content of each conversation.²

On September 2, 2020, you sent a letter in response to my request stating that you “strongly disagree” with the assertions in my letter. Although you confirmed that you communicated with individuals associated with the Trump campaign, you failed to identify the individuals you spoke with—or when these conversations occurred. You also failed to produce any of the documents I requested. Instead, you wrote only:

To provide additional information regarding those conversations, it is well known that I have for many years been active in Republican politics. During that time, I have developed many personal friends who are also active in Republican politics, and who therefore are associated in some way with Republican political organizations, including potentially the Trump campaign. On a number of occasions, I relayed to these individuals the same message: specifically, my view that the President’s statements regarding the Postal Service and Election Mail were incorrect, and not helpful to the Postal Service. I also noted to the Governors during conversations at one of our meetings that I had conveyed this message to my friends.³

On that same day, September 2, 2020, Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney issued a subpoena compelling you to produce a wide range of documents you are withholding from the Committee, including the following:

All documents and communications drafted, sent, or received by Postmaster General DeJoy after June 15, 2020, in person, over the telephone, or through emails, texts, or any other forms of communications, whether through official or personal technology platforms, with individuals who are or were associated in any way with ... The Trump campaign or any other political organization, including employees, advisors, consultants, and intermediaries, regardless of whether they were paid or unpaid or acting in a formal or informal capacity, the dates of each of these communications, and a detailed description of the content of each conversation.⁴

Mail-in Ballots (Aug. 24, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/protecting-the-timely-delivery-of-mail-medicine-and-mail-in-ballots>).

² Letter from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service (Aug. 26, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2020-08-26.GEC%20to%20DeJoy-USPS%20re%20Testimony.pdf>).

³ Letter from Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service, to Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Subcommittee on Government Operations (Sept. 2, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2020%2009%2002%20DeJoy%20to%20Connolly%20re%20Response%20to%20August%2026%20letter.pdf>).

⁴ Subpoena of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, U.S. Postal Service, from the Committee on Oversight and

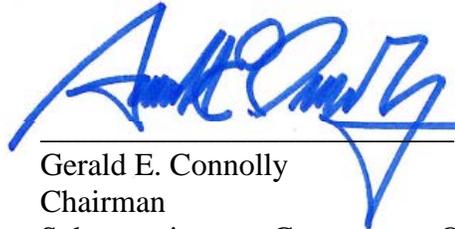
Mr. Louis DeJoy
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Under the terms of the subpoena, you must produce these documents to the Committee by September 16, 2020, and your production must include communications “through official or personal technology platforms.”

To be clear, there is no prohibition on having personal friends who are involved in politics. But you may not withhold information from Congress about official Postal Service matters by cloaking them in the guise of personal relationships. Claiming a personal relationship does not absolve you of your responsibility to produce these documents to the Committee. Recent reports have raised additional serious concerns about your extensive participation in political fundraising. Congress, and the American public, have a right to know about your contacts with the Trump campaign.

The Committee on Oversight and 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 you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Jody B. Hice, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations