

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 26, 2020

Mr. Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Room 10300  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1000

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am writing to follow-up on your responses to my questions on Monday during your testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Reform and to request information about your secret communications with the Trump campaign.

On Friday, you testified before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that you had not discussed any postal changes or their impacts with Trump campaign officials.<sup>1</sup>

On Monday, you appeared to reverse your testimony in response to my questions. You started by reaffirming your testimony Friday in no uncertain terms that you have had “no contact” whatsoever with the Trump campaign. You testified:

I've had no contact with the Trump campaign. I have not—I mean, I've spoken to the President, I've spoken to Steve Mnuchin, I've spoken to other people. But I've had no contact—about the Postal—I've not spoken to anyone about the Postal Service.<sup>2</sup>

However, when confronted with additional facts and information, you later appeared to change your testimony. We had the following exchange:

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Hearing on Examining the Finances and Operations of the United States Postal Service During COVID-19 and Upcoming Elections* (Aug. 21, 2020). (online at [www.hsgac.senate.gov/examining-the-finances-and-operations-of-the-united-states-postal-service-during-covid-19-and-upcoming-elections](http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/examining-the-finances-and-operations-of-the-united-states-postal-service-during-covid-19-and-upcoming-elections)).

<sup>2</sup> House Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on Protecting the Timely Delivery of Mail, Medicine, and Mail-in Ballots Service* (Aug. 24, 2020) (online at [oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/protecting-the-timely-delivery-of-mail-medicine-and-mail-in-ballots](https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/protecting-the-timely-delivery-of-mail-medicine-and-mail-in-ballots)).

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.<sup>3</sup>

Your testimony raises a number of questions.

As a threshold matter, it is concerning that you, in your capacity as Postmaster General, would be communicating secretly with anyone associated with the Trump campaign. You have testified repeatedly that, by statute, the Postal Service should be independent and removed from politics. Engaging in undisclosed contacts with Trump campaign officials directly undermines these goals.

In addition, you did not disclose to the Senate—or initially even to our Committee—that you in fact did communicate with the Trump campaign. As you know, you were under oath on both occasions. This omission, combined with your efforts to conceal other documents our Committee has requested, raises grave concerns about the veracity of your testimony.

Finally, it appears that you chose to communicate secretly with the Trump campaign because you did not want to publicly contradict President Trump, who has relentlessly attacked the Postal Service and voting by mail.<sup>4</sup>

As Postmaster General, your responsibilities do not include secretly communicating with any campaign. You have a duty to stand up for the independence of the organization you lead and state clearly and publicly when the President's actions are fundamentally undermining that mission. Instead, your response to President Trump's actions has betrayed the position of public trust you occupy as the nation's 75th Postmaster General.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

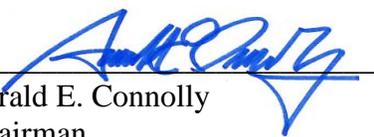
<sup>4</sup> *Trump's Attacks on the Postal Service Deserve Sustained, Red-Alert Coverage from the Media*, Washington Post (Aug. 15, 2020) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/media/trumps-attacks-on-the-postal-service-deserve-sustained-red-alert-coverage-from-the-media/2020/08/14/6eac0e50-de2f-11ea-8051-d5f887d73381\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/media/trumps-attacks-on-the-postal-service-deserve-sustained-red-alert-coverage-from-the-media/2020/08/14/6eac0e50-de2f-11ea-8051-d5f887d73381_story.html)); *Why Trump's Attack on USPS is an Attack on the Constitution, Democracy, and Racial Equality*, Brookings (Aug. 24, 2020) (online at [www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2020/08/24/why-trumps-attack-on-usps-is-an-attack-on-the-constitution-democracy-and-racial-equality/](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2020/08/24/why-trumps-attack-on-usps-is-an-attack-on-the-constitution-democracy-and-racial-equality/)); *Trump Rails on Mail-In Voting in Surprise Remarks at Convention*, The Hill (Aug. 24, 2020) (online at [thehill.com/homenews/administration/513395-trump-rails-on-mail-in-voting-in-surprise-remarks-at-convention](https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/513395-trump-rails-on-mail-in-voting-in-surprise-remarks-at-convention)); *Trump Admits He is Undermining USPS to Make it Harder to Vote by Mail*, The Guardian (Aug. 13, 2020) (online at [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/13/donald-trump-usps-post-office-election-funding](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/aug/13/donald-trump-usps-post-office-election-funding)).

For these reasons, we request that you produce the following documents and information by September 2, 2020:

1. All documents, including emails, texts, and all other forms of communications, sent or received since June 15, 2020, whether through official or personal technology platforms, between you and any individuals 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.
2. A list of all individuals you have communicated with in person, over the telephone, or through emails, texts, and all other forms of communications since June 15, 2020, whether through official or personal technology platforms, who 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.
3. The dates when each of these communications occurred and a detailed description of the content of each conversation.
4. All documents, including memoranda, emails, and meeting minutes, referring or relating to any information you provided to or received from Members or staff of the Postal Service Board of Governors regarding 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 Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Enclosure

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

## Responding to Oversight Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. Produce all documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
2. Requested documents, and all documents reasonably related to the requested documents, should not be destroyed, altered, removed, transferred, or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
3. In the event that any entity, organization, or individual denoted in this request is or has been known by any name other than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
4. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, thumb drive, or secure file transfer) in lieu of paper productions.
5. Documents produced in electronic format should be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
6. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
  - a. The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
  - b. Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
  - c. If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
  - d. All electronic documents produced to the Committee should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document, and no modifications should be made to the original metadata:  
  
BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH, PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE, SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM, CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE, DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD,

INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION,  
BEGATTACH.

7. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, zip file, box, or folder is produced, each should contain an index describing its contents.
8. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers, or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.
9. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph(s) or request(s) in the Committee's letter to which the documents respond.
10. The fact that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
11. The pendency of or potential for litigation shall not be a basis to withhold any information.
12. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(d), the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and any statutory exemptions to FOIA shall not be a basis for withholding any information.
13. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(9), the Privacy Act shall not be a basis for withholding information.
14. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
15. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) every privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author, addressee, and any other recipient(s); (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other; and (f) the basis for the privilege(s) asserted.
16. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (by date, author, subject, and recipients), and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
17. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, produce all documents that would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.

18. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data, or information not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
19. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
20. Two sets of each production shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2105 of the Rayburn House Office Building.
21. Upon completion of the production, submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

### **Definitions**

1. The term “document” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, data, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, communications, electronic mail (email), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other inter-office or intra-office communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape, or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, mail, releases, electronic

message including email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, message application, or otherwise.

3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information that might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neutral genders.
4. The term “including” shall be construed broadly to mean “including, but not limited to.”
5. The term “Company” means the named legal entity as well as any units, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities over which the named legal entity exercises control or in which the named entity has any ownership whatsoever.
6. The term “identify,” when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual’s complete name and title; (b) the individual’s business or personal address and phone number; and (c) any and all known aliases.
7. The term “related to” or “referring or relating to,” with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with, or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
8. The term “employee” means any past or present agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, detailee, fellow, independent contractor, intern, joint adventurer, loaned employee, officer, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, special government employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.
9. The term “individual” means all natural persons and all persons or entities acting on their behalf.