

August 4, 2021

Board of Governors
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Governors,

We write to you because of our deep concern for the Postal Service's plans to slow First Class Mail service. Our organizations represent a diverse cross-section of the public with many different views and priorities, but we are united in our belief in the necessity of a strong and reliable Postal Service that serves the needs of the country. Your plans to lengthen service standards for First Class Mail to as many as five days' delivery run counter to the public's needs and expectations of the Postal Service, particularly as the pandemic continues. We urge you to reconsider them.

The service standard proposals have been met with unprecedented public opposition. A number of our organizations were involved in soliciting the more than 130,000 public comments lodged with the Federal Register notice, nearly unanimously opposed to any slowdown of the mail. Twenty-one Attorneys General filed their opposition to your proposals before the Postal Regulatory Commission. And the PRC's recent Advisory Opinion itself was unprecedented in its criticism of a Postal Service plan and the underlying wisdom of the proposal. We share many of these same concerns.

Quite simply, American families, business and civic institutions all depend on the "prompt, reliable and efficient" mail service promised to them under the law. Whether it's communicating, doing business, or voting, First Class Mail remains an essential component of the Postal Service's overall service and the flagship product for USPS. The PRC concluded that the impact on those communities most likely to rely on the mail – like seniors, small businesses, working-class people, and people in rural areas – was never taken into consideration by the Postal Service. Slowing down as much as 40% of First Class Mail would not only fall short of the public's needs and expectations, it risks creating disparate impacts, hastening the public's flight from the mail and further jeopardizing the Postal Service's already-fragile finances.

We are confident that we share with you a concern about the future viability of the Postal Service. These proposed changes however, seem unlikely to contribute to the sustainability of the Postal Service. Changes to service standards in 2012 degraded mail service and realized only *de minimus* savings. Indeed, because of the modest savings the current proposals are likely to contribute, as the PRC noted "it is not clear that the tradeoff between financial viability and maintaining high-quality service standards is reasonable."

The Postal Service is unique in its ability to reach every home and business in the country every single day. No other institution is so central to American life – public or private, commercial or civic. Now is no time for diminished expectations. We urge you to preserve the Postal Service's standing with the people and reconsider the current plans to extend the First Class Mail Service standards.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
African American Health Alliance
AFT-Oregon
American Family Voices
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
American Sustainable Business Council
Americans for Financial Reform
APWU Local 44
Big Apple Coffee Party (a local group of A Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service)
Broward for Progress
Build Back Better Thurston
Build Back Better USA
Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR)
Chicago Jewish Labor Committee
Clean Elections Texas
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition of Labor Union Women SF Chapter
Color of Change
Common Defense
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Communities and Postal Workers United
Consumer Action
Democracy Initiative
Democratic Socialist Labor Commission, DSA's Labor Body
East Area Progressive Democrats (EAPD)
Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce
Feminists in Action Los Angeles
Greenpeace USA
Hightower Lowdown
Hudson County Central Labor Council
IFPTE Local 194
In the Public Interest
Indivisible Hawaii
Indivisible San Jose
Jewish Labor
Jewish Labor Committee
Jobs With Justice
Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute (MCLI)

NALC Branch 3825
NAMI Huntington
National Organization for Women
Northwest Hills Neighborhood Council
NPMHU Local #322
Oakland APWU Retiree Chapter
Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 1794
Oregon AFL-CIO
Our Revolution
Paducah, KY APWU Local 2500
PDX Correspondence Coop
People's Action
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC)
Portland Jobs with Justice
Pride at Work
Prosperity Works
Public Citizen
Railroad Workers United
Revolving Door Project
Save Our Postal Service
Save the Berkeley Post Office
Save the Post Office Coalition
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Social Security Works
Take on Wall Street
The Labor Heritage Foundation and the Coalition of Labor Union Women
United Federation of Teachers
United Food & Commercial Workers Union
Workers World PDX
Working Families Party