



Representative Paula Hicks-Hudson Minority Whip

August 10, 2020

Dear Postmaster General:

While at the US Post Office in Toledo, Ohio on Friday, July 24, 2020, I overheard a very disturbing conversation. The young lady was asking why her mail had not been delivered for several days. She was concerned because she was looking for medicine that was vitally needed and had not arrived. Additionally, a gentleman was asking for some type of proof from the clerk to give to the Court to show that he had indeed sent court papers. The clerk was surprised and explained that while they might not get the mail one day, they should have received it the next day.

Subsequently, I posted a question on Facebook as to whether other people might be experiencing a delay in the delivery of mail service. To my shock and dismay, I learned that citizens in Toledo are not receiving their mail in a timely manner. Many people stated that the way our mail delivery is now operating, the bill payments that they send in with plenty of time to reach their destination, are arriving late, causing them to have late payments. As of this writing, there were 96 comments with many of my neighbors and constituents reporting extreme delays. I am also extremely concerned because as we prepare for the November elections, there is great concern among election officials and voters that ballots will not arrive to the voter timely, nor return to the Boards of Election in time to be counted. As you are probably aware, the current use of the Michigan processing plant for Lucas County, Ohio mail adds days, if not weeks, to the delivery of our mail. How will this impact our votes?

I have heard of the problems with staffing levels due to the pandemic and its effect on our communities. I am aware of the tension that you are having to deal with due to budgetary constraints and efficiency demands. However, I have also heard of intentional sabotage of postal operations and that is unacceptable. The delivery of mail is an essential governmental service. People depend on their mail carriers.

There must be a reevaluation of the policies that you have instituted that are hurting mail services. I implore you to review the various correspondence that you have received from the business community, federal elected officials and others. These current policies are not benefitting anyone. I ask that you adequately staff and equip mail distribution centers and

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reinstitute the ability for postal carriers to complete their routes. Mail carriers are telling me that first class mail has never before been delayed like this timely and efficient processing of mail must once again be a priority I am also requesting that you consider returning the mail processing and distribution back to Toledo. People depend on the U.S. Postal Service. It is a source of American pride and it must not be destroyed or dismantled. Please act quickly. I look forward to your response and am available for discussion.

Sincerely,



Paula Hicks-Hudson
State Representative
Ohio House District 44

CC. Governor Mike Dewine
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Rob Portman
Congressman Bob Latta
Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Secretary of State Frank LaRose

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