

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our great concern regarding reports that you intend to dissolve the United States Postal Service's (USPS) bipartisan Board of Governors and move the independent agency under the control of the Department of Commerce. The Postal Service plays a crucial role in keeping our communities, especially in our rural areas, connected to each other and to the wider world. From delivering prescription medications and household goods, to election ballots, paychecks, and critical bills, USPS continues to be an essential part of Americans' everyday lives. However, press reports indicate you are planning to upend over 50 years of Congressionally-mandated independence at USPS with no clear strategy for continuing essential mail delivery services or achieving financial sustainability. We urge you to cease the advancement of any proposal that would alter the USPS without congressional consultation and approval.

Virginians are unfortunately familiar with the impacts of mail delivery falling short in the Commonwealth. In late 2023, USPS chose Richmond, Virginia as the first location to implement sweeping reforms under the "Delivering for America" plan, including opening the Richmond Regional Processing and Distribution Center (RPDC). Shortly after, Virginia's on-time service performance became the worst in the country. Last year, members of the Virginia delegation met with Postmaster General Louis DeJoy on three occasions to push USPS to do everything in its power to improve mail service in Virginia. Throughout the year, we saw steady improvements in USPS's mail service as we continued to press for increased transparency, greater engagement with the public, and a higher standard of service.

While some communities in Virginia still experience service performance issues, we were pleased to see a USPS Inspector General report in January 2025 that found USPS had stabilized service at the Richmond RPDC, achieved most of the expected savings for fiscal year 2024, and returned statewide mail service to match nationwide averages. We fear such a significant upheaval of USPS's governing structure and operations, as has been reported in the press, could reverse the improvement in mail service we have seen across Virginia.

Throughout our nation's history, the Postal Service has been an integral function of the U.S. government, particularly in rural areas. While 63% of post offices in rural areas do not generate enough revenue to cover their costs, Congress continues to ensure changes do not disadvantage rural areas because all Americans deserve the same mail delivery service regardless of where they live. Given your reported interest in privatizing the Postal Service, the universal service

obligation that binds the Postal Service to deliver to all Americans could be scrapped for a plan that risks cutting off rural delivery and worsening service for all.

We are also disturbed by the notion that a USPS merger with the Department of Commerce will insert an intense partisan agenda into the distribution of millions of mail-in ballots as we approach election season. In the 2024 election, USPS processed 99.22 million ballots, with 99.88% of ballots delivered from voters to election officials within seven days and only one day on average to deliver ballots from voters to election officials. With over 2.3 million Virginians voting absentee in the 2024 general election, it is imperative that no changes are made to USPS that would undermine its ability to facilitate free and fair elections.

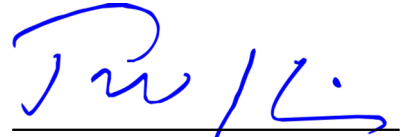
Any effort to ignore federal law and fire all members of the USPS's Board of Governors – Republicans and Democrats who have been appointed by presidents and confirmed by the U.S. Senate – and move this independent agency under your control, will be met with fierce opposition. Furthermore, we request that you provide a full accounting of any changes that are being explored to alter USPS service, leadership, and personnel.

Considering your reported plans would disrupt the lives of our constituents and the critical mail delivery services they rely on, we request your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



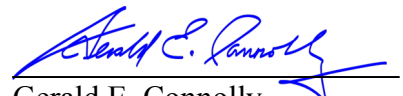
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



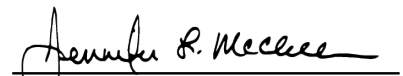
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



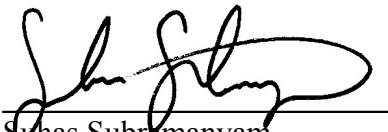
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



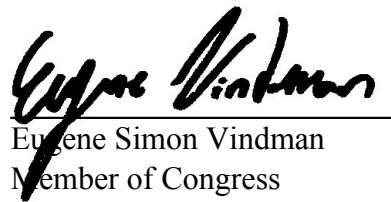
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress