August 3, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol, S-230  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
 Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
 Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
U.S. Capitol, S-221  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As negotiations over Phase 4 COVID-19 relief legislation continue, we urge you to continue to include strong support for the United States Postal Service (USPS) in any final relief legislation.

On April 9, 2020 Postmaster General Megan Brennan informed the House Committee on Oversight and Reform that the Postal Service anticipates a loss of $13 billion in 2020 and $54.3 billion over the next ten years as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The CARES Act provided USPS an additional $10 billion in borrowing authority from the Treasury, which the Postal Service later confirmed would provide them “sufficient liquidity to continue operating through May 2021.”¹ Additionally, in May 2020, the House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act, which contained an additional $25 billion in emergency appropriations for USPS.

Despite these emergency measures, there is substantial cause for concern. First, USPS has just recently entered into an agreement with the Treasury Department to access the additional borrowing authority granted by the CARES Act. To date, the Treasury Department has not disclosed what those conditions are to Congress. While revenue losses have thankfully not been as severe as anticipated, the Treasury Department imposing its own hidden and potentially arbitrary requirements to release Congressionally-approved funds violates the intent of the CARES Act and subverts Congressional authority. The HEROES Act rightfully includes

language that would prevent the Treasury Department from establishing arbitrary criteria for USPS’ CARES Act borrowing authority. This provision has bipartisan support in the Senate,\(^2\) and in any final Phase 4 legislation, Congress must continue to ensure that USPS’ access to CARES Act borrowing authority is not impeded.

Second, the new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has begun to implement new operational standards designed to reduce expenses by cutting postal workers’ ability to work overtime. While the USPS OIG has found in 2019 that the amount of overtime hours worked has increased from Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2018\(^3\), Postmaster General DeJoy’s new requirements have rendered postal workers unable to deliver mail in a timely manner. As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide, the likelihood of voters utilizing mail-in ballots to protect themselves and their families has increased. The potential for votes to go uncounted, or for their delivery to be delayed as a result of the Postmaster General’s new requirements, threatens the integrity of the upcoming election. In any final Phase 4 legislation, Congress must mandate that USPS return to operational standards as they were on June 14, 2020, immediately prior to Louis DeJoy joining USPS.

As we continue to grapple with COVID-19, it is imperative that we maintain our support for one of our country’s oldest, most cherished, and most valuable institutions. We thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. /s/ Peter A. DeFazio
ALMA S. ADAMS, PH.D. PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney /s/ Gerald E. Connolly
CAROLYN B. MALONEY GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/ Raúl M. Grijalva /s/ Peter Welch
Raúl M. Grijalva Peter Welch
Member of Congress Member of Congress

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/s/ Karen Bass
KAREN BASS
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JOAQUIN CASTRO
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JIM COOPER
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RO KHANNA
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DINA TITUS
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TULSI GABBARD  
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/s/ Raja Krishnamoorthi  
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI  
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