

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2020

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

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We are writing today to bring to light major mail delivery issues that constituents in the Baltimore region are experiencing which we believe are a result of delayed processing times and staff shortages. Specifically, our offices are receiving a high volume of complaints from areas serviced by the following Post Offices in the Baltimore region:

Dundalk	Reisterstown
Essex	Towson
Brooklyn Park	Cherry Hill
Gwynn Oak	Parkville
Walbrook	Penn-North
Randallstown	Pikesville
Catonsville	Halethorpe

Congressman Ruppertsberger recently visited two Post Offices in Maryland's 2nd District where residents have not received mail in 2-3 weeks, have received the wrong mail when it is delivered, or are told mail is being held at their local Post Office for pickup. When they arrive to pick up their mail – sometimes after waiting in line for an hour or more – they are informed that this is not the case.

Constituents of Senators Cardin and Van Hollen and Congressmen Mfume and Sarbanes are facing the same and many similar challenges, including weeks with no mail or inconsistent service in which mail will be received on some days but not on others. In many cases, these constituents rely on the Postal Service to deliver prescriptions, which are often the difference between life or death for many elderly and infirm populations. Beyond that, many of Maryland's small businesses have suffered financial harm due to misdelivered items, delayed deliveries, and undelivered payments. As we diligently work to keep America's economy intact, we cannot ignore these very real concerns of the business community.

Finally, we would be remiss not to underscore our concerns with what these delivery issues could mean for our constituents who wish to vote by mail this coming November. Many Marylanders who are immunocompromised, elderly, or simply reluctant to take the risk of contracting COVID-19 will need to be able to vote by mail in the coming weeks. This right of American citizenship should not be compromised by delivery issues within the United States Postal Service.

While we recognize that some of the problems we've outlined existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that your recently announced policy changes on the national level will only cause them to be further exacerbated. As such, we are specifically requesting that you reinstate and continue paying overtime, develop measures to keep employees safe, allow more flexibility with regard to start and end times for routes, and develop a plan to address staffing shortages as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



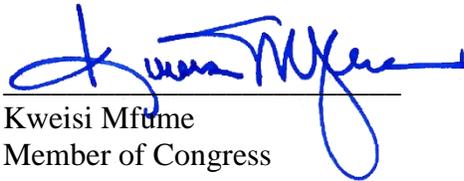
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



C.A. Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress