

**Rep. Katie Porter Remarks**  
**Committee on Oversight & Accountability**  
**December 11, 2023 Member Day Hearing**

When Democrats and Republicans cast their ballots in November 2024, what is the one thing they'll agree on?

This isn't a riddle. It's not even a clever joke. Really, there is something.

Regardless of party affiliation, every voting American wants to be confident that their ballot will get processed. No matter who we vote for, we all want our ballots to get smoothly to their final destination.

After all, this desire applies to anything important we want processed.

When was the last time anyone here sent a family heirloom through the mail to their relative without getting a tracking number?

And who hasn't tracked their order of clothing or medicine at least once?

I don't know about you, but for me, it's comforting to know what random city my new shoes are in when they're being shipped so that I know they're truly on the way.

When something is important to us, Republicans and Democrats alike want to know it's in good hands. Our ballots are no exception.

Fortunately, the United States Postal Service created a tracking barcode for mail-in ballots. But unfortunately, not everyone gets to use ballot envelopes that meet Postal Service design requirements. We need to fix that problem.

That's why I joined with Representatives Mace, Mfume, Donalds, Connolly, Fitzpatrick, Norton, and Ciscomani to introduce the Vote by Mail Tracking Act.

Under our bill, every ballot envelope will meet Postal Service standards and get a tracking barcode. Voters of all political stripes can then do the oversight to be sure that their vote reaches its final destination.

That transparency is a necessary step to make Republicans and Democrats alike confident in our elections.

And that's exactly why this bill is led by four Republicans and four Democrats. It's not partisan. It's just good policy. If I can track that my new shoes are on the way, we all certainly should be able to do the same for our ballots.

And this bill doesn't just make things more streamlined for the American people. It also makes processing easier for the Postal Service, reducing its burden and making efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Raskin, I thank you both for your support of this commonsense legislation. I know this is a priority for you as well. I look forward to working with you to pass this bill through our committee, and then on the House floor, early in the new year.

And to my fellow committee members, you'd be in great company joining eight bipartisan members and both the Chairman and Ranking Member in supporting this bill. I urge every member of this committee who hasn't done so already to cosponsor this legislation.

I thank the committee for its time and consideration of the Vote by Mail Tracking Act.