

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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MEMORANDUM

September 10, 2020

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Subcommittee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Postal Update”

On Monday, September 14, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. E.T., the Subcommittee will hold a hearing on recent developments regarding the Postal Service. The hearing will convene in person in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building and remotely using WebEx.

I. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The U.S. Constitution established the Post Office, and Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General in 1775.¹ In 1970, Congress passed the Postal Reorganization Act, which created the United States Postal Service (USPS or Postal Service) “as an independent establishment of the executive branch of the Government of the United States.”² As under federal law, the Postal Service is “a self-supporting, independent federal agency and the only delivery service that reaches every address in the United States.”³

The Postal Service provides mail delivery to more than 159 million delivery points and operates more than 31,000 post offices nationwide.⁴ Today, the Postal Service employs almost 497,000 career employees, 136,174 non-career employees, and is the foundation for a more than \$1.7 trillion mailing industry that employs more than 7.5 million people. In commitment of its mission the Postal Service delivers 48% of the world’s mail and operates a delivery vehicle fleet of 204,274.⁵

¹ U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl. 7.

² Pub. L. No. 91-375 (1970).

³ United States Postal Service, *Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report to Congress* (online at <https://about.usps.com/what/financials/annual-reports/fy2019.pdf>) (accessed on Aug. 23, 2020).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

On the precipice of a contentious federal election and, due to the pandemic, an unprecedented reliance on the mail to deliver ballots, the public deserves a non-partisan Postal Service that it can trust. At this hearing, experts will provide evidence for alarming concerns about Postmaster General DeJoy and evaluate how his continued leadership could jeopardize the Postal Service and the mail-in voting process for the 2020 election.

II. WITNESSES

David Fineman

Former Chairman
United States Postal Service Board of Governors

Lisa Graves

Executive Director and Editor-in-Chief
True North Research

Richard Painter

S. Walter Richey Professor of Corporate Law
University of Minnesota Law School
Former Chief White House Ethics Lawyer and Associate Counsel to the President 2005-2007

Ann Ravel

Former FEC Chair and CA Fair Political Practices Chair
Adjunct Professor at UC Berkeley Law

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