

Questions for the Record – Response from Rictarsha Westmoreland, Mail Processing Clerk and Shop Steward, U.S. Postal Service

House Subcommittee on Government Operations, February 14th 2022 Hearing: “Waiting on the Mail: Postal Service Standard Drops in Baltimore and the Surrounding Area

Question from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly:

1. Postal Service management points to employee absenteeism as one of the major causes of mail delays. In your oral testimony, you pointed to a lack of staffing as the cause of these delays. Why do you believe a lack of staffing has contributed more to mail delays than employee absenteeism? Please provide any data you have that substantiates this argument.

On December 31, 2021 84 postal workers were laid off at my facility, the Linthicum IMF Processing and Distribution facility due to "a lack of work." Had these employees been kept on the job, there would be more staff to sort the mail when workers become ill, prevent sortation back logs, or to help free up lead clerks to train workers on the floor.