

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2023

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
United States Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 10804
Washington, D.C., 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write to request an extension of the United States Postal Service's (USPS) mail forwarding deadline by an additional six months. Currently, USPS is only required to forward an individual's mail for 365 days per each temporary change-of-address order, according to USPS' [Domestic Mail Manual 507.2.1.3](#). Writing on the behalf of my constituents that have gone through an excruciating Hurricane Ian recovery process, the simple fact of the matter is that many of my constituents are still rebuilding their homes, and many are not yet situated.

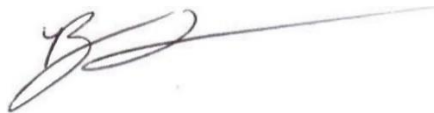
For example, say one of my constituents had their home completely demolished from the high impact, 155 mph winds produced by Hurricane Ian. If the home is no longer livable at that point in time, individuals take abode in temporary living situations until their home is made livable again—thus why individuals file a temporary change-of-address order with USPS. USPS honors that temporary forwarding address for a year max, however the rebuilding process may take several months depending on the damage. In furtherance of the principals of fairness while simultaneously understanding what my constituents have been through because of Hurricane Ian, I believe it would greatly benefit my constituents if USPS extended its mail forwarding deadline by an additional six months.

In reality, this shouldn't be a difficult ask. Afterall, USPS is given great discretion by Congress to distribute mail, and USPS guidelines pertaining to the temporary change-of-address order may be broad enough for USPS to implement an ad hoc temporary exemption for Florida's 19th Congressional District. Plus, USPS already provides a mail forwarding deadline of 18 months for *permanent* changes to one's mailing address.

The USPS public website specifically states that “[USPS seeks to] maintain and enhance [its] reputation and role as a trusted face of the federal government in *every community*” and that “[USPS seeks to] provide frequent, reliable, safe, and secure delivery of mail . . . to all Americans.” My constituents have experienced the worst of circumstances with the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian, and I believe USPS should be willing to extend its mail forwarding deadline by an additional six months in furtherance of its goal of providing reliable mail delivery to all Americans and every community—even those that were flattened by a Category 5 hurricane.

Therefore, I formally request that USPS extend its temporary mail forwarding deadline by an additional six months. Time is of the essence as we approach the anniversary of Hurricane Ian and the expiration of the temporary USPS mail forwarding deadline. I appreciate your attention to this important manner, and I look forward to receiving your response soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Byron Donalds', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Byron Donalds
Member of Congress (FL-19)