

THE NAVAJO NATION



JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

August 20, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 8015, the Delivering for America Act

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer:


The United States Postal Service (USPS) is a lifeline that provides the Navajo people essential access to prescription medications, food, supplies, and monthly payments from Social Security, the Veterans Administration, and TANF. As this Committee reviews the operations of the USPS and considers the Delivering for America Act, we urge the Committee to support the bill and allocate the funding USPS needs to continue providing services to rural Navajo families.

Home mail delivery to Navajo households is nearly nonexistent. Navajo people utilize P.O. Boxes, often shared by multiple families, to conduct business and pay bills. The Navajo Nation, which is the size of West Virginia, has only four (4) U.S. Post Offices. In order to service more rural areas on the Navajo Nation, the USPS provides Contract Postal Units (CPU) funds to operate but not enough to make them sustainable. Many CPU operators subsidize operations with their own personal funds to keep their facilities open for the thousands of Navajo people who rely upon them.

Complicating the situation is the lack of online banking on the Navajo Nation. For most of our families, there is no alternative to the USPS. First of the Month activities are vital for our elders and families to come into town, stop at the post office to receive their benefit checks, and restock on necessities such as groceries, household items, livestock supplies, and prescription medications. If the USPS experiences any delay in services, Navajo families face many serious hardships.

The Navajo people use the U.S. Postal Service for essential purposes. It is imperative this Committee and the House pass H.R. 8015. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Santee Lewis, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, at (202) 682-7390 or by email at slewis@nnwo.org. Ahéhee', thank you.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION

NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

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