

## Re: H.R. 8015 - Delivering for America Act

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer:

A well-functioning postal system is a critical component of a successful November election. Secure Democracy strongly urges you to support H.R. 8015 to guarantee existing postal service delivery standards are maintained through the November election and for the duration of the current public health crisis.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is a bedrock American institution, founded before the signing of the declaration of independence and is enshrined in Article I of the U.S. Constitution. Today, USPS is America's [favorite federal agency](#) and remains the most [trusted brand in America](#).

In recent months, however, postmaster general Louis DeJoy has implemented several drastic changes to USPS operations, including a "[sweeping overhaul](#)" of the USPS's leadership team, a directive to [leave mail behind](#) at distribution centers in an effort to reduce overtime, and the planned [deactivation of 671 mail sorting machines](#) at distribution facilities across the country. These changes have already resulted in mail [backlogs](#) and [delivery delays](#) of up to three weeks. While DeJoy now claims he intends to "[suspend](#)" these policies until after the November election, Congress must enact H.R. 8015 to roll back service cuts that have already been implemented and guarantee no further damage is done between now and Election Day.

These changes could not come at a worse time. The country is in the middle of the biggest public health crisis in over a century and an unprecedented number of Americans are expected to cast an absentee or mail-in ballot this November. Now more than ever, reliable mail delivery is critical to the success of our democracy. As Dave Yost, Ohio's Republican Attorney General, recently [cautioned](#), "the radical changes [implemented by USPS] only weeks before early voting begins – however fiscally well founded – would place the solvency of the Post Office above the legitimacy of the Government itself."

Rural voters are particularly vulnerable to service cuts to our postal system. While polls indicate that mail-in voting is [widely popular](#) among voters in both major parties and evidence shows mail-in voting [does not provide a partisan advantage](#), delays in mail delivery are [disproportionately harmful to rural communities](#), where voters tend to be older and often lack alternative delivery methods to return their ballot.



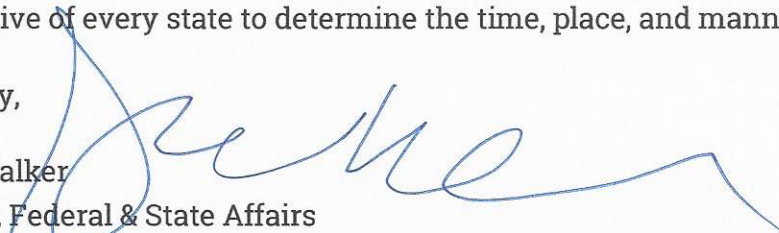
The recent actions by USPS also threaten to usurp constitutional authority vested in states and in Congress. The U.S. Constitution gives states the authority to regulate the “[time], place, and manner” of federal elections and gives Congress exclusive ability to alter state election laws.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, every state in the country has enacted laws to permit some or all its voters to cast a ballot via the mail, and Congress has enacted various absentee voting laws, including the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Both state and federal law establish clear deadlines for the delivery and receipt of absentee and mail-in ballots.

Nevertheless, with less than 100 days before the presidential election, the [USPS sent notices to 46 states](#) warning that it cannot guarantee that ballots cast by mail will be delivered in time to be counted, and urged states to change their deadlines to comply with USPS delivery standards. States should not be required to make last-minute changes to their election laws in order to meet USPS delivery standards. To the contrary, USPS must take all necessary steps – including prioritizing the delivery of mail ballots – to ensure delivery standards comply with the constitutionally established election laws enacted in each state.

It has been reported that at least [20 states are expected to sue](#) to enjoin USPS from violating state election laws. Election administrators in every state have worked diligently to develop policy solutions that ensure voters have safe and accessible options to cast a ballot this November, but Congress must act now to ensure their efforts are successful. Congress must enact H.R. 8015 to reverse the drastic changes implemented by the USPS and protect the integrity of our November election. If the USPS fails to reverse course, thousands – if not millions – of voters will be disenfranchised. Moreover, the USPS will be derelict in its duty to comply with state election laws, undermining the constitutional prerogative of every state to determine the time, place, and manner for holding elections.

Sincerely,

Sarah Walker  
Director, Federal & State Affairs  
Secure Democracy



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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Const. Art. I, § 4.