

August 26, 2020

Dear Leader McConnell,

We are writing to you to urge you to follow the House's lead and immediately bring the Senate back from August recess in order to vote on critical U.S. Postal Service (USPS) legislation to support the agency and counter damaging operational changes that have slowed mail delivery and put voting rights at risk ahead of this November's election.

With less than 75 days until election day, the President and his handpicked nominee to run the Postal Service - Louis DeJoy, the former finance chair of the Republican convention who has no relevant experience running a government agency - have made alarming moves to dismantle and hamper the agency at a time when the country is relying on it the most.

In just the past couple of weeks, President Trump admitted on national television that he was purposely sabotaging the Post Office to make it harder for millions of Americans to safely cast their ballot this November; DeJoy told states that they might need to pay nearly triple the postage rate for election ballots to be mailed out on time; the Post Office inexplicably removed collection boxes and high-speed mail-sorting machines from facilities across the country, in many cases the same machines that would typically be used to sort ballots; and the Post Office sent letters to 46 states and Washington, D.C. warning that it cannot guarantee all ballots cast by mail for the November election will arrive in time.

In addition, financial disclosures recently revealed that DeJoy continues to own a multi-million dollar stake in his former company, XPO Logistics, which serves as a contractor for USPS, and, shortly after assuming his new role helming the postal agency, he purchased tens of thousands of dollars worth of stock options in Amazon, which also contracts with - and competes with the Post Office. These are two stunning and blatant conflicts of interest.

Any one of these actions taken individually would be worrisome, given that as many as 80 million Americans are estimated to cast their ballots by mail this fall. Taken collectively they are tantamount to a five alarm fire.

These developments come as the President continues to relentlessly and maliciously spread misinformation about voting by mail, falsehoods that are deliberately designed to stoke illegitimate fears about its reliability and security.

Simply put, this full-court assault on vote-by-mail by the President in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis poses a direct threat to our democracy. As the Majority Leader of the Senate, you have the duty, responsibility, and ability to safeguard our elections and protect voters' access to the ballot.

It's time to take your finger off the pause button and bring the Senate back into session to hold a vote on Senator Peters' Delivering for America Act that would reverse the harmful changes instituted this year at USPS and ensure its operations and level of service meet what it had in place at the beginning of the year. Additionally, the bill as drafted in the House provides \$25 billion needed to fund operations at the Post Office.

Americans must have assurances that their elections will be safe and secure and that the results will be respected. Quick action can protect every American's sacred and constitutional right to vote as well as the United States Postal Service, and every person in this country who it serves.

As Republican President Ronald Reagan often said, the right to vote is the "crown jewel" of American liberties. We must protect it at all costs.

Sincerely,

Let America Vote//End Citizens United Action Fund
Common Cause
All On The Line
Arab American Institute
Center for Popular Democracy
Clean Elections Texas
Coalition to Preserve, Protect, & Defend
Communications Workers of America
Democracy 21
Democracy Initiative
Democracy Matters
Fix Democracy First
Franciscan Action Network
Greenpeace USA
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Oxfam America
Poligon Education Fund

Progressive Turnout Project
Public Citizen
RepresentUS New Mexico
Republicans for the Rule of Law
Service Employees International Union
SMART Elections
Stand Up America
Texas Progressive Action Network
The Democratic Coalition
Voices for Progress