



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

August 20, 2020

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Honorable Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation,

We are writing today to express our serious concern about the potential impact that actions by the Trump Administration related to the United States Postal Service (USPS) will have on the election in November.

As you know, last week, USPS general counsel and executive vice president Thomas Marshall sent letters to election officials in 46 states, including Wisconsin. The letters warned of "inconsistencies" between its delivery service and state deadlines for receiving and counting mail-in ballots, raising the possibility that many ballots may not arrive in time to be counted.

There are two key issues at stake: the long-term vitality of the United States Postal Service and the strength of our democracy. The COVID-19 pandemic has intertwined these two issues at this crucial moment in our country's history. The Postal Service, enshrined in our Constitution, ensures that every single address in the country has mail service. It provides rural Wisconsinites, seniors, and veterans with life-saving medication. Small businesses throughout Wisconsin rely on the USPS to ship products to customers. And this year, in the midst of a global pandemic, it will play a vital role in preserving our core democratic value of "one person, one vote."

Rather than working to address these issues, US Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has exacerbated the problem with various changes at USPS including steps to eliminate employee overtime and removing over 500 mail-sorting machines nationwide. During a pandemic, we must take every possible precaution to bolster our citizens' ability to vote safely and securely. The Trump Administration has instead sowed chaos and put up roadblocks that make our democracy less accessible.

Democrats have recognized the challenges USPS would face associated with a high volume of mail-in ballots for months. On May 15, 2020, the House passed the HEROES Act (H.R.6800 — 116th Congress) which included \$25 billion for the USPS and another \$3.6 billion for states to support their election systems. The Senate must come back and take up this crucial legislation immediately. The people we represent deserve better than their elected officials going on a long recess in the midst of this crisis.

While Senate Majority Leader McConnell has failed to act, we appreciate the House of Representatives coming back to Washington on Saturday to vote on legislation to block the recently implemented cost-cutting measures at the United States Postal Service and ensure the agency can handle the large volume of mail-in ballots expected for November's elections.

It is time to set aside partisan games and serve the people we represent. We know the demand for a well-supported vote by mail system will be present. Right here in Wisconsin, for instance, election officials across

the state received more than 900,000 absentee ballots for the August 11th primary election - seven times as many requested for the state's August 2018 primary elections.

We are calling on you today to support the United States Postal Service, and in doing so, support our democracy.

Sincerely,



Gordon Hintz
54th Assembly District



Senator Mark Miller
16th Senate District




Representative JoCasta Zamarripa



Representative Sondy Pope



Representative Jimmy Anderson



Representative Amanda Stuck



Representative Nick Milroy



Representative Robyn Vining



Representative Lisa Subeck



Representative Jonathan Brostoff



Representative Beth Meyers



Representative David Bowen



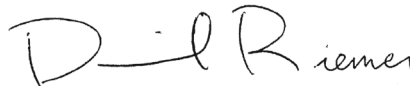
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Representative Katrina Shankland



Representative Steve Doyle



Representative Daniel Riemer



Representative Don Vruwink



Representative Deb Kolste



Representative Dave Considine



Representative Greta Neubauer



Representative Jason Fields



Representative Shelia Stubbs



Representative Dianne Hesselbein



Representative Evan Goyke



Representative Marisabel Cabrera



Senator Janis Ringhand



Senator Patty Schachtner



Senator Chris Larson



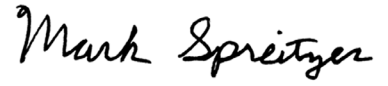
Senator Jeff Smith



Senator LaTonya Johnson



Senator Fred Risser



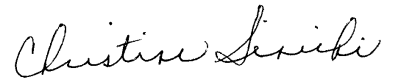
Representative Mark Spreitzer



Representative Jill Billings



Representative Tod Ohnstad



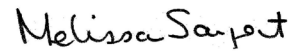
Representative Chris Sinicki



Representative Tip McGuire



Representative Kalan Haywood



Representative Melissa Sargent



Senator Lena Taylor



Senator Jon Erpenbach



Representative Gary Hebl



Representative LaKeshia Myers