

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Maloney:

We write to request that Democrats immediately stop promoting irresponsible and baseless conspiracy theories about the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). We are hearing troubling reports that the personal information of USPS leadership was recently posted online by malicious actors, allowing protestors to approach and harass them at their homes.¹ This behavior is directly motivated by the fabricated attacks on the USPS that you have spearheaded and is now unnecessarily endangering the safety of hard working public servants.

Recently, congressional Democrats, in a broadly coordinated effort organized under your leadership, have sought to spread baseless conspiracy theories about the USPS for political gain. These unfounded theories contend that the USPS is removing mail boxes to prevent citizens from voting by mail, that the USPS does not have adequate funding and will be insolvent before the November election, and that the USPS lacks the infrastructure to deliver mail-in ballots to and from voters. As you know, none of these claims has any basis in fact. Once again, Democrats have manufactured a crisis to undermine President Trump at the expense of America's institutions.

The truth is that USPS has been on an unsustainable financial path that predates current leadership. Since the rise of the internet, mail volume has decreased every year which is why the USPS has sought to reign in uncontrolled overtime costs, recognized by the USPS's Office of the Inspector General as a longstanding problem.² Democrats have irresponsibly denounced it as an

¹ Colleen Grablick & Jeffrey Katz, *Protesters Gather Outside of Postmaster General's D.C. Home as Threats to Mail-In Voting Loom*, DCist.com (2020), available at <https://dcist.com/story/20/08/15/protesters-gather-outside-of-postmaster-generals-d-c-home-as-threats-to-mail-in-voting-loom/>.

² U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, *Audit Report: Mail Processing Overtime* (Report Number NO-AR-19-005) (Jun. 2019), available at https://www.uspsoig.gov/sites/default/files/document-library-files/2019/NO-AR-19-005_0.pdf.

effort to sabotage the election.³ Unfortunately, Democrats continue to malign sensible plans commenced in 2011 and designed to streamline the USPS' operations, such as removing mail stops and equipment. Ironically, the same policies were carried out during the Obama administration as the administration removed 12,000 mailboxes and shuttered more than 80 mail facilities.⁴ Yet, there was no uproar from Democrats, much less calls for "emergency" votes and hearings.

Despite Speaker Pelosi's decision to schedule an unnecessary emergency vote this Saturday, the USPS is solvent through at least August 2021, well beyond the November election.⁵ Moreover, USPS leadership recently announced that it would suspend operational changes until after the 2020 election.⁶ Democrats continue to pursue an unnecessary bailout plan that does not fix any of the underlying operational issues at the USPS.⁷ The USPS is well equipped to handle the volume of mail required by an expected increase in mail-in voting. In fact, it handles over 400 million pieces of mail every day.⁸ Even assuming every registered voter in the United States – about 158 million – were to vote by mail, the increase of the 316 million pieces of mail (in terms of ballots being sent to voters and ballots being cast) would not exceed a typical day's mail volume.

Irresponsible tactics used by Democrats that vilify the efforts of senior USPS leadership have regrettably led to malicious actors publishing the personal information of the entire Postal Board and the Postmaster General over the weekend.⁹ The situation puts those civil servants in danger from those who believe the baseless conspiracies promoted by Democratic leaders in Congress. It also hampers the USPS leadership's ability to conduct business at a time when general election ballots are scheduled to be mailed in a matter of weeks.¹⁰

The right to vote is foundational to our Republic, and all votes must be fairly counted. Americans should have confidence that each vote counts, regardless of whether they vote in person or by mail in the 2020 election. Your completely unfounded and baseless attacks on the

³ Max Cohen, *Pelosi celebrates walkback of Postal Service changes: 'They felt the heat'*, Politico.com (2020), available at <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/08/18/nance-pelosi-postal-service-changes-397824> .

⁴ Ronn Blitzer, *USPS flashback: Obama administration removed thousands of mailboxes*, Foxnews.com (2020), available at <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/postal-service-flashback-obama-admin-removed-thousands-of-mailboxes> .

⁵ SEC Filing, U.S. Postal Service, Quarterly Financial Report (Form 10-Q) (Aug. 6, 2020), available at <https://about.usps.com/what/financials/financial-conditions-results-reports/fy2020-q3.pdf>.

⁶ Emily Cochrane, Hailey Fuchs, et. al, *Postal Service Suspends Changes After Outcry Over Delivery Slowdown*, NY Times (2020), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/18/us/politics/postal-service-suspends-changes.html>.

⁷ Amy Gardner, Josh Dawsey & Paul Kane, *Trump opposes election aid for states and Postal Service bailout, threatening Nov. 3 vote*, Washington Post (2020), available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-mail-voting/2020/08/13/3eb9ac62-dd70-11ea-809e-b8be57ba616e_story.html .

⁸ U.S. Postal Service, *First-Class Mail Volume Since 1926 (Number of Pieces Mailed, to the Nearest Million)* (Feb. 2020), available at <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/first-class-mail-since-1926.htm> .

⁹ Grablick, *supra* note 1.

¹⁰ Harry Enten, *The 2020 Election Actually Starts in One Month*, CNN (2020), available at <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/04/politics/absentee-voting-analysis/index.html>.

Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Maloney

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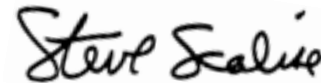
Page 3

USPS not only undermines the confidence and integrity of our election system, but also puts the safety of USPS public servants at risk. You must stop promoting misinformation campaigns immediately to prevent further serious damage to the reputation and physical security of USPS employees and the integrity of the 2020 election.

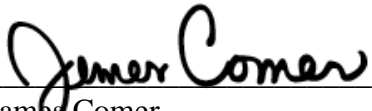
Sincerely,



Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader



Steve Scalise
Republican Whip



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform