



August 1, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Nearly two years after his appointment by the Postal Board of Governors, the United States Postal Service continues to languish under Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's leadership. Despite the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act (PSRA), DeJoy still plans to raise postage prices at "uncomfortable rates" around the country.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, numerous post office locations are set to be shuttered under his 10-year restructuring plan, potentially impacting thousands of employees during a time of economic crisis.<sup>2</sup> After DeJoy's numerous failings at the helm, it is imperative that we have a strong, full, and reform-oriented Postal Board of Governors in place to hold him accountable to the true mission and public service goals of the USPS.

In your recent comments on the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act, you stated that "the Postal Service is fundamental— to our economy, to our democracy, and to our health, the very sense of who we are as a nation."<sup>3</sup> Given your stated commitment to defending the Postal Service, we as a coalition are disappointed in your recent selections of corporate executives Derek Kan and Dan Tangherlini to serve on the Board of Governors, as their backgrounds are littered with close ties to the predatory private equity and real estate industries.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, neither Kan nor Tangherlini have demonstrated a credible commitment to defending USPS or ousting DeJoy.

With two more vacancies slated to open on the Postal Board this coming December, we, the undersigned 83 advocacy organizations spanning 16 states and Washington DC, urge you to nominate Postal Board of Governors candidates who will hold the current Postmaster General Louis DeJoy accountable for his destructive leadership and advocate strongly for the expansion of USPS services. The Board as presently constituted has failed to play its fiduciary role as DeJoy has implemented chaotic delivery directives and advanced his 10-year plan. Adding two new, public interest-minded Board members at this crucial juncture is an essential step to removing DeJoy and defending what has long been the American peoples' most respected public institution.<sup>5</sup>

This is one of the last opportunities your administration has to appoint governors to the postal board. It is essential to select nominees who are wholly committed to the task of protecting and

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<sup>1</sup><https://federalnewsnetwork.com/management/2022/05/dejoy-expect-usps-mail-prices-to-keep-going-up-at-an-uncomfortable-rate/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.govexec.com/management/2022/05/usps-close-repurpose-more-postal-facilities/367229/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/04/06/remarks-by-president-biden-at-signing-of-h-r-3076-the-postal-service-reform-act-of-2022/>

<sup>4</sup><https://therevolvingdoorproject.org/bidens-usps-nominees-seem-fine-with-letting-dejoy-wreck-the-post-office/>

<sup>5</sup><https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2020/0415-usps-tops-list-again-as-americans-favorite-government-agency.htm>

expanding our Postal Service. Given the current party affiliations of the Postal Board, you are not statutorily prevented from selecting two Democratic nominees to replace Donald Moak and William Zollars. In light of mounting obstructionism from the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee's Republican membership in refusing to confirm even moderate Democratic nominees to federal posts, and the urgency of saving the Post Office, these nominees are a compelling case for a tie-breaking vote from the Vice President. The rare freedom the law grants you to choose nominees without partisan constraints should not be taken for granted.

Now is not the time for nominees who have their vision focused only on small-scale tweaks to the USPS – now is the time for a Board that will invest in building the Postal Service of the future. Given the current board is nearly entirely male and majority white, nominees should more accurately represent the postal workforce and the nation's population. We need nominees who understand that the USPS could serve an expanded essential role to Americans across the country by providing affordable financial services to low income communities and families. We need nominees who will push the USPS to look at its long-term financial health and procure a union-built electric postal fleet that will be better for the planet, for mail carriers, and for frontline communities. We also need nominees who have the personal availability and willingness to fully commit to serving the United States Postal Service and the country's interest in a robust and sustainable USPS. Now is no time for limited attention when the problems facing us are so wide.

Special consideration should also be given to nominees who have a labor union background and/or a demonstrated history of valuing the importance of workers. It is imperative that you nominate potential governors who understand the responsibility they have to ensure that the work conditions at the USPS are equitable and fair. The Postal Board of Governors does not need any more corporate executives or private equity managers: the hundreds of thousands of USPS workers around the country deserve Postal Board of Governors nominees that possess the lived experiences and perspective necessary to better represent the USPS workforce and the nation.

It's going to take all of us working together to ensure the United States Postal Service of the future is well-positioned to be the innovative institution that the people of our nation deserve. We need nominees who understand that the USPS has always been, and should remain a cherished public service. Ensuring that your next two nominations to the Postal Board of Governors are up to the monumental undertaking is both a necessary and crucial step.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

1. Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
2. Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
3. Black Women's Roundtable
4. Blue Wave Postcard Movement
5. BlueGreen Alliance
6. BOLD ReThink
7. Center for Biological Diversity
8. Center for Economic and Policy Research
9. Chop Wood, Carry Water Progressive Actions
10. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

11. Coalition on Human Needs
12. CodePink
13. Communities and Postal Workers United
14. Democracy Initiative
15. Demos
16. Equal Justice Society
17. Family Farm Defenders
18. Feminist Majority Foundation
19. Friends of the Earth US
20. GLSEN
21. Greenpeace USA
22. Indivisible
23. Jobs With Justice
24. Matthew Shepard Foundation
25. National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
26. Natural Resources Defense Council
27. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
28. People's Action
29. People for the American Way
30. Plug In America
31. Pride at Work
32. Prison Policy Initiative
33. Public Citizen
34. Revolving Door Project
35. Rooted in Resistance
36. RootsAction.org
37. Save Us Now Inc.
38. The Save the Post Office Coalition
39. Sierra Club
40. Sisters of St. Joseph
41. Social Security Works
42. the Promise of Justice Initiative
43. Take on Wall Street
44. True North Research
45. Working Families Party

### **State/Local Organizations**

46. Alaska PIRG
47. APWU Albany NY Local 390
48. APWU Local 44
49. Berkeley Save the Post Office
50. Broward for Progress
51. California Electric Transportation Coalition (CalETC)
52. Electric Transportation Community Development Corporation (ETcommunity)
53. Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
54. Clean Elections Texas
55. Cleveland Jobs with Justice
56. Community Hospice

57. Indivisible Washington's 8th District
58. Indivisible Bainbridge Island
59. Indivisible California Green Team
60. Indivisible Greater Vancouver
61. Indivisible Illinois
62. Indivisible Media City Burbank
63. Indivisible Metro East
64. Indivisible San Jose
65. Indivisible Santa Fe
66. Indivisible Skagit
67. Indivisible Sonoma County
68. Indivisible South Peninsula
69. Indivisible Vashon
70. Indivisible Ventura
71. Indivisible Westside LA
72. Indivisible Whidbey island
73. Louisiana Survivors for Reform
74. Mainers for Accountable Leadership
75. New York Metro Area Postal Union (APWU)
76. North Carolina A. Philip Randolph Educational Fund
77. Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Teachers Association
78. Sister District Project - San Francisco
79. Solidarity Committee--Capital District
80. Southwest Michigan Communities and Postal Workers United
81. Stand Strong LA Indivisible
82. Wallingford Indivisible
83. Wellstone Democratic RenewalClub

cc: Senator Gary Peters, Chair, Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee  
Representative Carolyn Maloney, Chair, Oversight and Reform Committee