

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney
LT. GOVERNOR

August 14, 2020

Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write to you today as I am deeply disturbed by reports of the removal of United States Postal Service (USPS) collection boxes in Montana communities and other changes to the operations of the USPS that have caused delays in mail delivery. This is unacceptable and will do great harm to Montanans' livelihoods. Specifically, I request that you provide me with answers to the questions that Senator Jon Tester posed in his letter to you dated August 13, 2020.

As you well know, the services provided by the USPS are critical to the prosperity of Montana's rural, tribal, and urban communities. Some 41% of rural Montanans do not have access to broadband internet, often relying on the mail for everything from paying their bills and accessing government services to keeping in touch with their family and friends. Furthermore, the Postal Service's universal service obligation ensures that these communities do not fall through the cracks where commercial shipping companies such as UPS and FedEx do not deliver or rely on the USPS to provide last-mile service for their deliveries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made ready access to postal services even more important for the people of our state. Many Montanans rely on the mail to obtain prescription drugs. Disruptions or delays to these deliveries only makes it harder for our seniors, veterans, and Montanans living in rural and urban areas to receive lifesaving medication. As our small businesses work to recover from the virus's impacts on the economy, many rely on the mail to conduct business.

Simply put, Montanans cannot afford to see their access to the Post Office cut. The challenges you face to ensure the USPS remains financially stable are no excuse. It is of the utmost importance that the decisions you make are transparent and made in collaboration with our state and local governments and the communities who rely on the USPS to connect with the rest of the country and world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor