## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Republican Leader United States House of Representatives H-232, U.S. Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Majority Leader United States Senate S-230, U.S. Capitol Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin Secretary United States Department of Treasury 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Secretary Mnuchin:

As you consider legislative priorities in any upcoming stimulus packages to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we urge you to incorporate provisions that will address the needs of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Postal management believes that volume and revenue may drop by 50% due to COVID-19. Now is not the time to debate reforms to USPS but rather to provide much needed relief to keep this important service operational.

In March, USPS worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to send a mailer with critical information about COVID-19 and recommendations for every American to prevent the spread of the virus. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently working on a self-testing nasal swab that must, once available, be efficiently delivered by the Postal Service to 135 million households across the country.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, P.L. 116-137) provided \$10 billion to the Treasury Department's Federal Finance Bank (FFB). The FFB has tried to impose operational changes to the Postal Service for years and these authorities were augmented in the CARES Act. USPS has not received a taxpayer appropriation (other than for military/overseas voting and free mail for the blind) since the 1980s but this current crisis warrants that change.

We ask that you consider including the following provisions:

- 1. A "public service" appropriation of at least \$25 billion to the Postal Service to alleviate some of the strain caused by the pandemic.
- 2. An authorization for a continued "public service" appropriation for the difference between USPS revenue and expenses for the duration of this public health crisis.
- 3. A mechanism to reimburse the Postal Service for any COVID-19 related leave pay provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).
- 4. Ensure equal treatment for postal employees in any legislation that authorizes, and funds hazard pay for other front-line workers exposed to health risks related to the COVID-19 virus. Such

legislation should cover postal workers, who face heightened exposure risks to the virus on a daily basis.

Millions of Americans depend on the Postal Service throughout their daily lives but especially during the coronavirus pandemic USPS is serving an important role. Any interruption to service could be detrimental not only to USPS but also to our constituents across the country.

Sincerely,

Brian Fitzpatrick

Member of Congress

Don Young

Member of Congress

Peter King

Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith *Member of Congress* 

Don Bacon Member of Congress

Rodney Davis

Member of Congress

David McKinley

Member of Congress

Fred Upton

Member of Congress

Mike Bost

Member of Congress

John Katko

Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew

Member of Congress

Pete Stauber

Member of Congress

Luxun W. Brooks

Susan W. Brooks

Member of Congress

Jelle

John Shimkus

Member of Congress

Joz Wilson

Joe Wilson

Member of Congress

Tom Reed

Member of Congress

Steve Stivers

Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler Member of Congress

Gaine Herrera Bentler

/S/ Mike Turner Member of Congress Spur Cala

Tom Cole

Member of Congress

Windel I. W. Earl

Michael T. McCaul Member of Congress

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce

Member of Congress

Darin LaHood

Member of Congress

/S/ Will Hurd Member of Congress