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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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December 9, 2020

United States Postal Service Board of Governors
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy and Members of the Board,

I write to request information about the strategic plan you are currently formulating for the U.S. Postal Service. According to a statement by Postmaster General DeJoy at the November 13, 2020 Postal Service Board of Governors meeting, the Postmaster General and the Governors “intend to propose a strategic plan within the next several months” that will discuss your proposals and approach for the future of the Postal Service.¹

Strategic plans serve as blueprints for USPS finances and operations, and are required by law at least every five years. When developing this plan, the Postal Service must consider the views and suggestions of all entities potentially affected by the plan.² The Postmaster General has stated the Postal Service will work with stakeholders and Congress to provide transparency and accountability regarding this plan.³ However, the Postal Service has so far not provided substantive answers to Committee questions about the planning process, which arose after the Postmaster General mentioned the plan during our August 21, 2020 hearing.⁴

In order to provide transparency about Postal Service operations and planning, I ask that you answer the following questions by December 15, 2020.

1. What is your timeline for work on the strategic plan and when do you estimate it will be completed?

¹ Board of Governors meeting (Nov. 13, 2020) (<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2020/1113-pmg-remarks-from-open-session-meeting-with-bog.htm>).

² 39 USC 2802. *See also* USPS Strategic Plan 2020-2024 (January 2020) (<https://about.usps.com/strategic-planning/future-postal-service/publications.htm>).

³ Board of Governors meeting (Nov. 13, 2020).

⁴ Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing, “Examining the Finances and Operations of the United States Postal Service” (Aug. 21, 2020); Questions for the Record from August 21 hearing (Sept. 5, 2020); HSGAC staff request to USPS congressional affairs (Sept. 24, 2020). USPS has not provided responses to QFRs for the August 21, 2020 hearing. USPS staff refused to answer questions submitted by HSGAC staff on Sept 24, saying nothing was finalized and USPS would brief Congress at the appropriate time.

United States Postal Service Board of Governors

Mr. Louis DeJoy

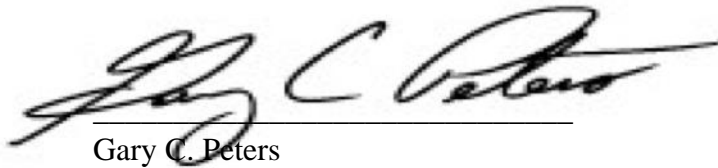
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2. What is your plan for consulting with Congress and stakeholders to meaningfully consider their views and suggestions during the strategic planning process?
3. What analysis are you conducting to examine the impact of any changes to Postal Service operations proposed for the strategic plan, including the service performance impact, prior to advancing these proposals for inclusion in the plan?
4. What criteria are you using to determine which changes to consider during the strategic planning process?
5. Do you plan to make any significant, nationwide changes to Postal Service operations prior to completion of the strategic plan?
6. Do you plan to seek an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission for any “change in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis,” based on analysis of potential service impacts?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Peters", written over a horizontal line.

Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member