

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

February 29, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 10300
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the recent and pervasive delays in mail delivery experienced by residents throughout southeastern Missouri. It has come to my attention that these disruptions have caused considerable inconvenience, particularly with the reported delays in receiving medications, checks, and important legal documents.

The failure to meet the Congressionally mandated six-day delivery windows is troubling, and it poses a significant disservice to the hardworking taxpayers of Missouri. Missourians, especially in rural areas, rely on timely mail delivery. The current situation is unacceptable and the Postal Service's inability to fulfill their duty is worrying.

This disruption has been particularly hard in Harrisonville, where a constituent has told us that staffing issues have caused massive delays. In fact, I have been told that postal workers there work full 8-hour shifts before being required to deliver mail after hours. This is unsustainable and has resulted in failures in delivery as well as exacerbating the staffing shortage.

I understand that the USPS has attributed these delays to major staffing shortages, an issue affecting various businesses nationwide. While I recognize the dedication of postal workers and mail carriers, it is clear that the USPS must take urgent measures to address these staffing challenges and prevent the situation from worsening.

To gain a better understanding of the strategies being implemented to resolve the current backlog of mail and address staffing shortages, I kindly request a timely response to the following questions:

1. What specific strategies are the USPS implementing to assist local Post Offices, particularly those in rural areas, in resolving the current backlog of mail?
2. What measures are being taken to address the staffing shortages and ensure an adequate workforce at USPS facilities?

I appreciate your attention to this matter and the hard work of USPS employees in fulfilling their duties. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Alford
Member of Congress