

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2020

Ms. Judith Herrick
District Manager
Philadelphia Metropolitan District
United States Postal Service
3190 S. 70th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19153

Dear Ms. Herrick:

I am writing to you concerning a recent United States Postal Service (USPS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) report, and related media reports, indicating that significant delays in mail delivery continue to occur in the district which you supervise. These delays come as a result of the sweeping policy changes and equipment removal which were implemented this summer. Furthermore, we understand that postal processing and delivery plants in your jurisdiction have not attempted to reinstall mail sorting machines that were removed or uninstalled earlier this year, and policy changes which have negatively impacted prompt mail processing and delivery have not been reversed, contrary to court orders and representations to Congress by the Postmaster General. Some of those adverse policy changes include reducing overtime, eliminating second trips, reducing use of sorting machines, requiring delivery trucks to leave before they are fully loaded, and reducing customer service hours.

As you know, on Monday, September 28, 2020, Judge Gerald McHugh of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania stated that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's decision to undermine virtually every function of the USPS is unjust and impairs a state's ability to conduct free and fair elections. Judge McHugh's ruling was the fourth federal court decision of this nature, after federal judges in three other Districts also found Postmaster General DeJoy's actions to be detrimental to our electoral processes.

In addition, a USPS OIG memorandum, which was addressed to you, reported more than a dozen issues related to maintenance and worker safety at the USPS Spring Garden Station.¹ These findings, compounded with a report in the Philadelphia Inquirer from October 1, 2020, show a troubling pattern of neglect for USPS worker safety and a defiance of explicit federal court orders.²

¹ United States. United States Postal Service. Inspector General: *Management Alert – Property Condition Issues at Spring Garden Station (Report Number 20-293-R21)*. Philadelphia, PA. October 2, 2020.

² Rushing, Ellie. "A Few USPS Plants Are Reinstalling Mail Sorting Machines. But in Philly, More Changes That Could Cause Delays Are Happening." [Https://www.inquirer.com](https://www.inquirer.com), The Philadelphia Inquirer, 1 Oct. 2020, www.inquirer.com/news/pennsylvania/postal-service-delays-philly-usps-mail-sorting-machines-20201001.html.

Workers in these facilities are not being provided with the foundational assistance they need to perform their duties. Voting in Pennsylvania has already begun, and mail-in ballots are expected to make up a significant portion of the total number of votes cast.

Any delay or impediment to USPS facilities' abilities to efficiently transport, sort, and deliver the mail is not only unacceptable, but a direct repudiation of federal court orders. I request that you respond to this letter by no later than October 15, 2020, with a report on the measures you are taking to reverse these harmful policies and to restore or enhance the capacity of facilities in your jurisdiction to process and deliver mail and ballots expeditiously, particularly with respect to the national election.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Gay Scanlon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mary" and "Scanlon" being the most distinct parts.

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

CC: Postmaster General Louis DeJoy; Honorable Gerald McHugh, E.D.PA