



September 2, 2020

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Connolly:

This letter is in response to your letter of August 26, 2020. While I strongly disagree with your assertions, this letter provides additional information regarding the conversations that you inquired about at the House Committee hearing.

To begin with, I want to state in no uncertain terms that I answered the questions posed to me in both the House and Senate hearings in a consistent, forthright and truthful manner, based on my understanding of the questions that were being asked of me. The assertions to the contrary in your letter are not accurate for the reasons I explain below.

Senator Peters asked me whether, "prior to implementing the changes that [I] put forth in the postal system," I had discussed "these changes or their impact on the election with any Trump campaign officials." I answered that I had not engaged in any such discussions, which is the truth. To be clear, I worked closely with the postal leadership team to develop and implement the directives I have issued with regard to the Postal Service: running our trucks on time, and re-organizing the management structure. I did not discuss those directives with the President, the Administration, or anyone in the Trump campaign.

These directives were designed to strengthen the organization and our ability to provide quality service. While service impacts did occur, which should not have happened, the changes we made were necessary and fundamental to our operations, and we are focused on fixing the service impacts. We have, in fact, seen significant improvements over the course of August, as was briefed to Committee staff on Monday of this week.

The questions you posed at the House hearing were considerably broader than the question posed to me by Senator Peters. Just as I did at the Senate hearing, I answered your questions candidly and truthfully. As I testified, I do not consider the communications I had with certain personal friends of mine regarding the President's statements about the Postal Service to be with the "Trump campaign." Nevertheless, as we engaged in our back-and-forth, and it became evident to me the conversations to which you were referring, I confirmed that such conversations with my personal friends had occurred.

To provide additional information regarding those conversations, it is well known that I have for many years been active in Republican politics. During that time, I have developed many personal friends who are also active in Republican politics, and who therefore are associated in some way with Republican political organizations, including potentially the Trump campaign. On a number of occasions, I relayed to these individuals the same message: specifically, my view that the President's statements regarding the Postal Service and Election Mail were incorrect, and not helpful to the Postal Service. I also noted to the Governors during conversations at one of our meetings that I had conveyed this message to my friends.

There is simply no basis for you to assert that these communications with my personal friends were in any way inappropriate or inconsistent with my role as Postmaster General. Moreover, I have made my views regarding the importance of the Postal Service, including our nonpartisan status and role in the electoral process, very clear throughout my tenure as Postmaster General. This was, for instance, a topic I discussed extensively in my remarks at the open session of the Board of Governors on August 7th. I also made my views clear in my testimony, and in response to questions at both hearings. As I have publicly stated, including in my testimony, the Postal Service is fully committed and capable of handling the full volume of the nation's Election Mail, and we are ready, willing, and able to do so without the need for any cash infusion for such purpose. It is therefore no secret that my views on these matters contradict those that the President has expressed.

I have stated my views on the relevant issues clearly and publicly. I respectfully disagree with your position that I have an obligation to directly confront or respond to statements of the President about the Postal Service. Your views in that regard do not correspond to the approach taken by my predecessor, and it is not the approach that I believe to be appropriate either, particularly given the Postal Service's nonpartisan nature, and the proud service that we provide to all Americans irrespective of their political beliefs.

As Postmaster General, you have my commitment that I have and will continue to protect and defend the interests of the Postal Service, which includes protecting our independent status and nonpartisan nature. I have and will also continue to abide by all my ethical and legal obligations, including the Hatch Act.

I hope this additional information is helpful and addresses the Subcommittee's needs.

Sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louis DeJoy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Louis DeJoy

cc: The Honorable Jody B. Hice, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations