

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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October 11, 2022

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Room 10300
Washington, D.C. 20260-1000

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write to seek information about how the Postal Service plans to use funding made available by Congress in the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand the Postal Service's fleet of electric vehicles (EV) and work with federal and state partners to create a nationwide public EV charging network.

The Oversight Committee strongly supports the purchase of EVs for the Postal Service's fleet of more than 190,000 vehicles, which will position the Postal Service as an environmental leader.¹ Electric vehicles will help the Postal Service reduce costs in the long term, increase reliability, and improve the Postal Service's ability to efficiently deliver mail and packages. Electrifying the next generation of Postal Service vehicles will also greatly contribute to the nation's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.²

I was pleased that following the Committee's hearing and letter earlier this year calling for the Postal Service to "take steps to rapidly transition to an electric fleet" and "[c]ommence a new environmental impact analysis," the Postal Service announced in July that it will update the environmental impact statement for the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV) program, and increase the number of electric NGDVs in the initial purchase order to comprise at least 50% of the order.³ This is an important first step, but the Postal Service has more work to do to fully electrify the fleet.

¹ See, e.g., Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Press Release: Oversight Committee Approves Legislation to Electrify Government Vehicle Fleets, Tackle Climate Change* (Sept. 2, 2021) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/oversight-committee-approves-legislation-to-electrify-government-vehicle-fleets>).

² Environmental Protection Agency, *Green Vehicle Guide: Electric Vehicle Myths* (online at www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/electric-vehicle-myths) (accessed October 11, 2022).

³ Letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, United States Postal Service (May 11, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2022-05-11.CBM%20to%20DeJoy-USPS%20re%20Post%20EV%20Hearing%20Follow%20Up.pdf>); United States Postal Service, *Press Release:*

In August, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act, which included \$3 billion to help the Postal Service expand its acquisition of electric vehicles and the necessary support infrastructure. In addition, in November 2021, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which included \$5 billion to develop a national charging network. Both of these appropriations provide opportunities for the Postal Service to expand its EV program and be part of a national framework to reduce the negative impacts of transportation on the environment.

The Postal Service's NGDV Executive Director testified before the Committee earlier this year that "the Postal Service could potentially play a discrete and limited role" in public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, noting that this role was "not yet clearly defined" and would depend in part on "the government-wide strategy" around public charging infrastructure.⁴ Since then, the Biden-Harris Administration has released additional guidance about this initiative and approved plans for all 50 states and the District of Columbia to develop a nationwide public charging network.⁵ In light of these developments, the Postal Service should be making meaningful progress in its participation in this effort.

I understand that the Postal Service is continuing to work on the supplemental environmental impact statement that was previously announced. The Postal Service must move swiftly to complete this analysis, implement the historic investments Congress has made in the Postal Service's fleet of the future, and significantly expand its acquisition of EVs and charging infrastructure.

For these reasons, please provide the following information to the Committee by October 25, 2022:

1. A detailed plan and timeline to use the \$3 billion in funding provided in the Inflation Reduction Act to increase the number of electric NGDVs being purchased and necessary support infrastructure. To the extent this plan is still in development, please provide a timeline for its completion; and

Postal Service Modernization Enables Expanded Electric Vehicle Opportunity (July 20, 2022) (online at <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2022/0720-postal-service-modernization-enables-expanded-electric-vehicle-opportunity.htm>).

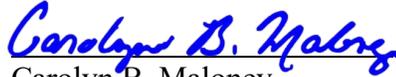
⁴ Committee on Oversight and Reform, Testimony of Victoria K. Stephen, Next Generation Electric Vehicle Executive Director, United States Postal Service, *Hearing on It's Electric: Developing the Postal Fleet of the Future* (Apr. 5, 2022) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Stephen%20Testimony.pdf>).

⁵ Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program Q&A* (online at www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/resources/nevi_program_faqs.pdf) (accessed October 11, 2022); Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, *Press Release: Historic Step: All Fifty States Plus D.C. and Puerto Rico Greenlit to Move EV Charging Networks Forward, Covering 75,000 Miles of Highway* (Sept. 27, 2022) (online at <https://highways.dot.gov/newsroom/historic-step-all-fifty-states-plus-dc-and-puerto-rico-greenlit-move-ev-charging-networks>).

2. A detailed plan and timeline for how the Postal Service will work with the Department of Transportation and state governments to become part of the national public-facing charging network.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. In addition, the Committee has jurisdiction over the “Postal service generally, including transportation of the mails.”⁶ If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,


Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member

⁶ House rule X, clause 1(n)(9).