

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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Opening Statement Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney Subcommittee on Government Operations Hearing on “Postal Update” Monday, September 14, 2020

Good morning. I would like to thank my colleague, Chairman Connolly, for holding this important hearing and being a strong partner in our investigation to hold the Postal Service and its leadership accountable to the American public.

I would also like to welcome the witnesses. We look forward to learning from you and working with you to ensure that the public interest is protected. Thank you for being here.

Ever since the Board of Governors announced the selection of Mr. DeJoy as Postmaster General, questions have been raised about the process for selecting him and possible conflicts of interest, given his many financial interests in Postal Service contractors.

During our full Committee hearing on August 24, 2020, multiple Committee members questioned Mr. DeJoy and Board Chairman Duncan about this selection process, and whether it was influenced by the fact that both Mr. DeJoy and Mr. Duncan are longtime megadonors for the Republican party.

They both denied that this had anything to do with his hiring.

When directly asked by Congressman Cooper whether Mr. DeJoy had ever paid back any of his executives for contributing to Republican campaigns by providing bonuses or rewarding them Mr. DeJoy responded in no uncertain terms, “That’s an outrageous claim, sir, and I resent it.”

Yet less than two weeks later, a headline appeared in the [Washington Post](#), which stated, and I quote: “Louis DeJoy’s Rise as GOP Fundraiser Was Powered By Contributions From Company Workers Who Were Later Reimbursed, Former Employees Say.”

If true, these allegations are not only incredibly unethical, they are illegal.

And to compound those possible crimes, Mr. DeJoy would have lied to Congress as well.

The United States Postal Service is one of our nation's most trusted institutions. It dates back to the very founding of our country and consistently receives the highest rating of federal agencies from the public.

Every day it provides millions of people with access to critical mail, medications, and especially in this unique election year, mail-in ballots.

But how long can we expect the faith of the American people to last if the Postal Service is tainted by partisan leadership and alleged criminal activity?

These are just a few of the reasons why I introduced the Nonpartisan Postmaster General Act, which will prevent Postal Service leadership from participating in political activity, and will prevent anyone who has held a political position in the last four years from being hired as Postmaster General or Deputy Postmaster General.

This is critical, time-sensitive legislation that the full Committee will consider this week.

Again, I thank the Chairman for holding this important hearing and the witnesses for being here today and look forward to hearing from all of you on this vital issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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