

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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August 29, 2017

Ms. Tammy L. Whitcomb
Acting Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 North Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209-2020

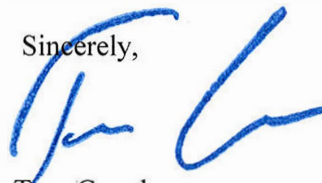
Dear Ms. Whitcomb:

Our Committee is evaluating the use of union-official leave without pay (LWOP) for purposes of political activities. Last month, your office released audit report, HR-AR-17-008 (July 5, 2017), titled, Carrier Leave Without Pay for Union Activities.

The procedures by which federal employees request LWOP, and by which managers and supervisors consider these requests, are the product of negotiation between the agency and the employees' collective bargaining representative. Recent investigations by independent watchdogs, including the Office of Special Counsel, provide evidence the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) violated both internal policy and federal law by allowing union members to take LWOP for union-official political activities.¹

To better understand your findings, please provide the complete file for both the Inspector General (IG) investigation on behalf of the Office of Special Counsel and the separate IG-initiated investigation for this matter. We are interested in obtaining all underlying documents and communications related to the engagement. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please ask your staff to contact Drew Baney of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member

The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

The Honorable Claire McCaskill, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

¹ See *The Postal Service's Actions During the 2016 Campaign Season: Implications for the Hatch Act: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs*, 115th Cong. (2017); U.S. OFF. OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, REPORT OF HATCH ACT INVESTIGATION: FACILITATING LABOR UNION'S POLITICAL ACTIVITY THROUGH USE OF "UNION OFFICIAL" LEAVE WITHOUT PAY, OSC File No. HA-17-0610, 1, July 14, 2017, *available at* https://osc.gov/Resources/FINAL%202017%20HA%20USPS%20Report%207.14.17_Redacted.pdf.