Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President of the United States of America The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

President Trump:

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding reports that you are considering signing an executive order that dismisses the duly appointed United States Postal Service Board of Governors and initiates steps to absorb the United States Postal Service into the Department of Commerce¹. Any attempts to unilaterally fire Senate confirmed members of the Postal Service's Board of Governors or undermine the longstanding independence of the United States Postal Service violates the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 and the separation of powers spelled out in the United States Constitution. For this reason, we ask you to reverse course on any planned executive order surrounding the Postal Service immediately.

As you know, members of the United States Postal Service's Board of Governors are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for fixed terms. The President does not have the authority to unilaterally dismiss any member of the Board, without cause, before their term has expired. The Board of Governors works in a nonpartisan manner to provide oversight of the Postal Service's leadership and appointing a new Postmaster General when there is a vacancy. Their work is essential to ensuring proper oversight of the Postal Service's day-to-day operations and in preventing political influence in the selection of the Postmaster General – safeguarding public trust in the Postal Service's independence.

In the Oval Office on February 21, you stated you were also considering "a form of a merger" of the Postal Service into the Department of Commerce. In 1970, Congress passed the Postal Reorganization Act, which removed the Postal Service from the President's Cabinet specifically to protect it from exactly the type of political interference your administration is demonstrating. The law grants Congress – not the Executive Branch – the authority to make legislative changes affecting the Postal Service. Specifically, Section 208 of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 states: "Congress reserves the power to alter, amend, or repeal any or all of the sections of this title"². This provision makes clear that any potential executive action to consolidate the Postal Service into the Department of Commerce is unlawful and must not go forward.

In addition to your unlawful attempts to reorganize the Postal Service, we remain alarmed by your past comments regarding the privatization of the Postal Service³. Any attempts to privatize the Postal Service would be a betrayal to the more than 640,000 postal employees who work tirelessly every day to ensure mail is delivered to every corner of the country. It would also hurt American consumers and businesses who rely on the Postal Service daily for mail and package delivery. These changes would be especially devastating for rural Americans, where the potential elimination of the Postal Service's universal service obligation would result in skyrocketing delivery costs for less populated regions of the country, where reliable service is most needed. Privatizing the Postal Service would have real-world consequences for our constituents, pricing many of them

¹ Trump expected to take control of U.S. Postal Service, fire postal board

² <u>Public Law 91-375</u>

³ Trump revisits plan to privatize USPS, a first-term goal that didn't go far

out of access to this essential service that has been a critical part of our nation's history since before its founding.

As Members of Congress, we demand that you halt any executive order that attempts to fire the Postal Service's Board of Governors or attempts to merge the Postal Service into the Department of Commerce. We also ask for a commitment from your administration to refrain from any further actions to undermine the Postal Service's critical role as an independent agency of the federal government.

Sincerely,

Nikki Budzinski Member of Congress

Jonathan L. Jackson Member of Congress

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Debbie Dingell Member of Congress

Ro Khanna Member of Congress

Dan Goldman Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II Member of Congress

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