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ICYMI: Rep. Adams' Leadership Leads to Passage of the Delivering for America Act

Alma Adams Press [sam.spencer@mail.house.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:18 PM

To: Steve Johnston

A photograph of three individuals standing outdoors. The person on the left is wearing a black hat and a white face mask with 'SAVE USPS' printed on it. The person in the center is wearing a purple t-shirt and a white face mask with 'SAVE USPS' printed on it. The person on the right is wearing a black shirt and a white face mask with 'SAVE USPS' printed on it. They are holding a blue sign that says 'U.S. NOT FOR'.

Rep. Adams' Postal Leadership Leads to Passage of Delivering for America Act

Critical Vote Comes as New USPS Internal Docs Detail True Extent of Postmaster General's Sabotage

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, with the U.S. Postal Service under assault from the Trump Administration, **Rep. Alma Adams** voted to pass H.R. 8015, the **Delivering for America Act**. The Delivering for America Act requires the Postal Service to return to the Postal Service operations and levels of service that were in place on January 1, 2020 throughout the duration of the coronavirus public health emergency and requires all election mail to be treated as First-Class mail. It also provides \$25 billion in critical funding for the Postal Service – the same level of funding recommended by the USPS Board of Governors, which is composed of 100 percent President Trump appointees.

The passage of the Delivering for America Act comes after weeks of advocacy from Rep. Adams to save the US Postal Service. Adams was the first member of Congress to call for the resignation of **Postmaster General Louis DeJoy**. [A video of Rep. Adams' floor remarks is available here.](#)

“The Postal Service is essential to the fabric of our communities, providing North Carolina families and all Americans with critical services, including the delivery of life-saving prescriptions, Social Security benefits, paychecks, tax returns and ballots,” **said Rep. Adams**. “Yet, the Trump Administration and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy have waged an outrageous campaign to degrade postal operations and delay mail delivery in the middle of a pandemic and just months before a Presidential election, threatening to sabotage the election and disenfranchise countless voters. While the committed activism of Democrats and the American people forced the Postmaster General into announcing a so-called ‘pause,’ it is a wholly insufficient

step that does not reverse damage already wreaked. The Postmaster General even admitted that he has no intention of replacing the sorting machines, blue mailboxes and other key mail infrastructure that have been removed and that plans for overtime, which are critical for the timely delivery of mail, are not in the works. **I've seen this damage firsthand as I've talked to postal workers and toured postal facilities."**

"I still believe Postmaster General Louis DeJoy should be removed, but America needs Congress to act to ensure the safety, security, and stability of our mail. Therefore, in the name of our democracy and the North Carolina veterans, seniors, families and small businesses who depend on the Post Office, I proudly joined my colleagues to pass the Delivering for America Act to undo the damage and ensure the Postal Service has the resources necessary to fulfill its vital role at this pivotal moment," **concluded Adams.**

The vote also comes at the same time as newly uncovered [internal Postal Service documents](#) warning Postmaster General DeJoy about steep declines and increasing delays nationwide over the last two months, delays that are far worse than originally believed.

Yet despite the urgent need for action, Congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration have repeatedly claimed that there are "no delays" with the mail and "no data," suggesting the delays are no more than "conspiracy theories."

#### **The Delivering for America Act would prohibit:**

- Any change that would generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis;
- Any revision of existing service standards;
- Closing, consolidating or reducing the hours of any post office or postal facility;
- Any prohibition on paying overtime to Postal Service officers or employees;
- Any change that would prevent the Postal Service from meeting its service standards or cause a decline in measurements of performance relative to those standards; and
- Any change that would have the effect of delaying mail or increasing the volume of undelivered mail.

#### **This legislation will also:**

- Include \$25 billion requested by the Postal Service and supported unanimously and on a bipartisan basis by the Trump-appointed Postal Board of Governors;
- Require the Postal Service to treat all official election mail as First-Class mail;
- Prohibit the removal, decommissioning or other stoppage of mail sorting machines, other than for routine maintenance;
- Prohibit the removal of mailboxes; and
- Explicitly reverse any changes already implemented to the operations or policies of the Postal Service that delay mail delivery.

In addition to this vital legislation, House Democrats have taken swift action to hold the Postmaster General and the Trump Administration accountable. Democrats have written to the Postmaster General three times to demand answers and key documents and information, and to call for a reversal of policies that have worsened the crisis and exacerbated a dramatic increase in delayed and undelivered mail. And on Monday, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold an urgent hearing with Postmaster General DeJoy to answer to the American people as to why he is pushing these dangerous new policies

that threaten the health of Americans during a pandemic and silence the voices of millions just months before the election.

**A copy of Rep. Adams' floor remarks are below:**

*Thank you, Chairwoman Maloney.*

*I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8015, the Delivering for America Act.*

*Our courageous postal workers and letter carriers have been essential in keeping our country on track during this pandemic.*

*And more of us than ever are relying on USPS to safely deliver medication and mail in a timely manner.*

*But now, this handpicked Postmaster General is engineering an unconstitutional assault against the Postal Service from the inside.*

*I saw it myself just yesterday in Charlotte. Mail-sorting machines have been reassembled and removed.*

*Workers are being prohibited from working overtime, and letters and packages are piling up.*

*I was proud to help lead the charge with Chairwoman Maloney, Chairman Connolly, and Chairman DeFazio earlier this month in the letter we wrote to Speaker Pelosi.*

*And I am proud now to vote in favor of protecting this essential institution.*

*The Postal Service has been delivering for us our entire lives.*

*Now it's time that we deliver for them, and for America.*

*I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of Chairwoman Maloney's excellent legislation.*

*Thank you, and I yield back.*

**Congresswoman Alma Adams** represents North Carolina's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Charlotte) and serves as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. Additionally, she serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Education & Labor Committee, where she serves as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee.

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