

Good morning!

My name is Paul McKenna and I am the President of the American Postal Workers Union here in Milwaukee.

I want to start by Thanking Senator Baldwin for being here today and for fighting for Workers and for OUR Postal Service.

Almost 30 years ago, I began my postal career working at the main processing facility in Milwaukee sorting letters on 2nd shift. For many Postal Workers, working nights, weekends and holidays is part of our job, as processing mail is a 24/7 operation for postal workers.

Postal workers are firm in our commitment to serving the public. We treat the mail as if it is our own. The frontline essential work of postal workers is connecting the American people in these challenging and dangerous pandemic times, underscores this dedication.

We are dedicated to our mission of providing *prompt, reliable and efficient* postal services, processing, sorting and delivering mail to 160 million addresses every day including medicine, financial transactions, retirement checks, census forms, magazines, catalogs, voter information, mail ballots, ecommerce packages and vital supplies. The USPS has proven to be indispensable during the pandemic.

For generations, people have appreciated their Postal Service, and in a recent Pew Research Poll from March of this year, the public overwhelmingly supports the Postal Service and Postal Workers with a 91% favorability rating. 91%!!! Trying to get 91% of the general public to agree on anything is an accomplishment, but they do agree on the question that the Postal Service is a extremely essential service.

Postal Workers have also been successfully handling vote by mail for generations. It is tried and tested, safe and secure and is becoming more popular with voters. During the current pandemic voting by mail is also a very appealing option for voters.... and the Postal Service has the capability to handle it.

Postal workers are extremely dedicated to our mission of connecting and serving individuals and businesses alike. Postal employees work very hard to make sure people get their packages, birthday and Holiday cards (yes people still send them), retirement checks, medicine and mail ballots. When I first started at the Postal Service it was immediately made known to us that what mail comes in today, gets processed today. There is no delayed mail. That's part of all Postal Workers DNA!

Our commitment to the American public is also exemplified by the dedication of postal workers during this dangerous pandemic, where we have had many postal workers become ill with COVID 19 and yes, some who even lost their lives worked in this very postal facility...all in the pursuit of getting your packages sorted and doing their jobs as postal workers.

It is very unfortunate that the Postmaster General has shown that he does not believe in that same commitment. Without any consultation or input from postal workers, postal customers or the mailing community he launched a series of actions that are harming service. As I'm sure you already know, the PMG has removed sorting machines that process your mail throughout the country. In our own Main Processing Plant in Milwaukee, four (4) of those machines have been removed over the past several months and more are scheduled to be removed. Each of these machines can sort 30,000- 35,000 letters an hour. Many of these machines are in operation 16-20 hrs a day.

By removing these machines like PMG LaJoy is doing, could create problems in the near future as mail volume starts to pick up for the holidays and elections. Just like we have been telling our customers for years during the Holidays,... Mail EARLY! The message is the same for Mail-in Ballots. Mail early. We believe removing the mail processing machines is a deliberate action to slow the mail down for the elections, and will only undermine the Postal Service's ability to fulfil its mission and drive away revenue – and the public trust – that the Postal Service needs. Remember, the word SERVICE is in the title of the organization in which PMJ DeJoy was chosen to lead. We would hope he knows this, but it appears he does not.

Postal workers have been successfully handling vote by mail for generations. It is tried and tested, safe and secure and virtually free of fraud. In 2016, 1 in 4 votes were done by mail in ballot, with an even higher number projected for the November election. The USPS has immense capacity to handle an influx of absentee ballots, already handling almost 500 million pieces of mail/packages a day, and routinely handles national mailings and peaks in volume.

The actions of the Postmaster General have included a reduction in hours at retail units, delaying mail, slowing down service and reducing work hours of a workforce that is already understaffed. Not surprisingly, the results have been a complete disaster and have undermined public confidence and trust.

Recently, thanks to massive public resistance to these changes from the American People, the Postmaster General was compelled to announce the temporary halting of some of these policies until after the November election. Don't be fooled! While this is a step in the right direction it's not even close to being sufficient. The need for quality

mail services does not end in November. All regressive policies should be reversed and permanently eliminated.

We need a postal service that is allowed to serve our customers with the high levels of service they have enjoyed and deserve for generations to come. Whether it is our seniors.....our businesses.....our veterans....voters.....urban and ruraleveryone deserves the highest level of mail service that is free from cutbacks, limitations and political motives!

Lastly, I ask that you continue to have faith in your Postal Service. Don't be afraid to vote by mail, but mail early!

Let us stand united in keeping the word SERVICE in OUR Postal Service!

Contact your Congressional Leaders and Demand that they Save OUR Postal Service Now!