

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

We write to express our grave concern over your statements and ongoing reports that the Trump Administration may soon attempt to bring the United States Postal Service (USPS) under the control of the Department of Commerce and potentially privatize services that are relied upon by millions of Americans. Not only would such a move violate the *Postal Reauthorization Act*¹ and harm Americans in many ways, but it would also have a very negative impact on our democracy by disrupting and undermining public confidence in the handling of election mail. We strongly urge you to stop your deeply misguided pursuit of this effort immediately.

Vote by mail is a safe and trustworthy method that millions of Americans use to cast their ballots in federal and state elections. During the 2024 general election cycle alone, the Postal Service delivered over 99 million ballots to and from voters, according to the USPS's December 2024 post-election report. Data from the most recent 2024 general election cycle makes clear that the Postal Service provides reliable mail delivery without any partisan influence, as Democrats, Republicans and Independents all continued to embrace vote by mail as a secure and convenient way to participate in our elections.

Privatizing the Postal Service would put our democracy in the hands of corporations that are more focused on efficiency and profit than the public good. The Postal Service provides free mail delivery to every address in the country, including rural and small communities that are hard to reach. President Trump's Task Force on the United States Postal System concluded in its December 2018 report that the Postal Service's "comprehensive delivery network that covers every address in the country is a critical part of the nation's infrastructure that cannot be replicated by private actors[.]"² Bringing the Postal Service under the control of political appointees at the Department of Commerce and potentially private companies raises serious concerns that partisan and private actors would deprive eligible voters of the confidence that USPS will properly

¹ See 39 U.S.C. § 101(a) ("The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people.").

² United States Postal Service: A Sustainable Path Forward. Report from the Task Force on the United States Postal System, 34 (2018) https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/USPS_A_Sustainable_Path_Forward_report_12-04-2018.pdf

handle their ballot by disrupting the robust delivery routes that connect our country or by imposing a cost on ballot returns.

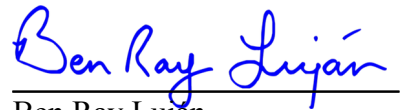
Generations of Americans have grown up trusting and relying upon the Postal Service, which for decades has operated as an independent agency.

In addition to the myriad other harmful aspects of moving the USPS under the Department of Commerce and potentially privatizing it, we urge you to be especially mindful of the this proposal's effect on our democracy and cease all efforts to take political control over the Postal Service and the handling of Americans' mail-in ballots.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator




Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



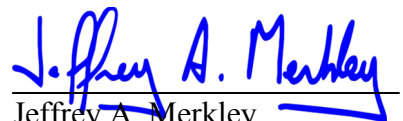
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



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United States Senator



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United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
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