May 6, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi   The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House         Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515        Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

In March, Congress took decisive, bipartisan action to stabilize the American economy and protect families nationwide from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Now, as we continue to assess the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, we write to request that any future relief package provide strong financial assistance to the United States Postal Service (USPS) while also enacting reforms necessary for its long-term viability.

On April 9, 2020 Postmaster General Megan Brennan informed the House Committee on Oversight and Reform that the Postal Service anticipates a loss of $13 billion in 2020 and $54.3 billion over the next ten years as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, and that under current conditions, USPS will go bankrupt by the end of Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20). While the CARES Act provided USPS an additional $10 billion in borrowing authority from the Treasury, we believe that Congress must provide the Postal Service with the full amount requested by the bipartisan Postal Service Board of Governors: $25 billion in emergency appropriations to offset losses; $25 billion to fund “shovel-ready” modernization efforts; and an additional $25 billion in unrestricted borrowing authority. Additionally, Congress should eliminate the USPS’ outstanding debt obligations and provide necessary funds to allow USPS workers to receive hazard pay for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

Once Congress has stabilized USPS’ finances, it is imperative that we provide the regulatory reform necessary to ensure its long-term viability. We ask Congress to end USPS’ prefunding mandate instituted by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006. Since 2006, the prefunding mandate has required that the Postal Service pay for 75 years of retiree health benefits. This unprecedented mandate has cost USPS $5.4 billion annually since it went into effect in 2007, preventing investment in critical infrastructure upgrades that would enhance its services. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the USPS has lost $69 billion over the past 11 years, much of it attributable to the prefunding mandate.1 As you know, the House has already passed H.R. 2382, which would end USPS’ prefunding mandate, by a bipartisan vote of 309-106 in February. If Congress were to eliminate USPS’ prefunding

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mandate now, we would not only ameliorate this unfair burden but also explore ways to ensure USPS can maintain full services when Americans – especially seniors, veterans, and those in rural communities – are relying on efficient delivery of Economic Impact Payments and medication as they face the impacts of COVID-19.

In the CARES Act, Congress sought to stabilize our nation from the consequences of the novel coronavirus. Now, as we seek to stimulate our nation, we must take decisive steps to secure one of our country’s oldest, most cherished, and most valuable institutions.

We thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. /s/ Peter A. DeFazio
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/ Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. /s/ Peter Welch
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. Peter Welch
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/ Terri A. Sewell /s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Terri A. Sewell Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano /s/ Vincente Gonzalez
Grace F. Napolitano Vincente Gonzalez
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton /s/ Mark Takano
Eleanor Holmes Norton Mark Takano
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee /s/ Jim Costa
Barbara Lee Jim Costa
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Al Lawson
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/s/ Donna E. Shalala
Donna E. Shalala
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/s/ Gerald E. Connolly
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/s/ Derek Kilmer
Derek Kilmer
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/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
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Member of Congress

/s/ Jared Huffman
Jared Huffman
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/s/ Sylvia R. Garcia
Sylvia R. Garcia
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/s/ Marcy Kaptur
Marcy Kaptur
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/s/ Chellie Pingree
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

/s/ Jahana Hayes
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/ Ruben Gallego
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

/s/ Angie Craig
Angie Craig
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ Rosa L. DeLauro
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

/s/ Joe Neguse
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

/s/ Mike Thompson
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/ Paul D. Tonko
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress
/s/ Wm. Lacy Clay
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress
/s/ Zoe Lofgren
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

/s/ Tim Ryan
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress
/s/ Lori Trahan
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress
/s/ Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy Castor
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress
/s/ Rick Larsen
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

/s/ Norma J. Torres
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress
/s/ Albio Sires
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress
/s/ Diana DeGette
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

/s/ Betty McCollum
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress
/s/ Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Lisa Blunt Rochester
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress
/s/ Katie Porter
Katie Porter
Member of Congress

/s/ William R. Keating
William R. Keating
Member of Congress
/s/ Jesús G. “Chuy” García
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