

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol S-230
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol S-221
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The coronavirus crisis is wreaking havoc on the U.S. Postal Service. Without immediate help, the Postal Service — a vital staple of American society since 1775 — could cease to function by this summer. This crisis is also affecting the State of New York more than any other. There were 287 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 14 deaths among postal workers in New York as of April 20, 2020.¹

As a direct result of the coronavirus crisis, first class and business mail volume across the country has dropped at an alarming rate. Mail volume is down by more than 30% from the same period last year. Over the next ten years, the Postal Service estimates that losses caused by the coronavirus crisis would be \$54 billion.²

This is a national emergency. The American people rely on the Postal Service to deliver crucial goods and services every day, including more than a billion life-saving medications last year alone, millions of economic stimulus checks and unemployment benefits to help during this crisis, and 2020 Census forms for every household in America.

In New York, the Postal Service delivers to 7.7 million addresses and has more than 1,800 Post Offices. In our state, the Postal Service employed 44,675 people and paid close to \$3

¹ Email from the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Postal Service, to Committee on Oversight and Reform (Apr. 20, 2020).

² Briefing by Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Postal Service, to Committee on Oversight and Reform (Apr. 9, 2020).

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billion in wages in 2018.³ New York also will rely heavily on the Postal Service to conduct its primary on June 23, 2020, during which no-excuse absentee ballots will be accepted.⁴

The Postal Service is a fundamental component of America’s economic infrastructure, providing affordable, universal delivery of mail and e-commerce packages to more than 160 million households and businesses. The Postal Service propels a \$1.6 trillion mailing industry that employs 7.3 million people. It does all of this while operating as a business and receiving next to nothing in taxpayer dollars.⁵

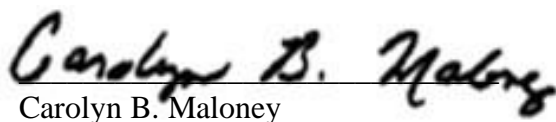
Both Democrats and Republicans supported large infusions of liquidity for other industries and companies that are critical to our nation’s economy, and we must do the same now to save the Postal Service.

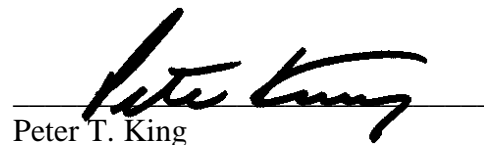
The Postal Board of Governors has asked for a package that includes \$25 billion in emergency appropriations to offset coronavirus-related losses, \$25 billion for “shovel-ready” projects to modernize the Postal Service, and access to \$25 billion in unrestricted borrowing authority from the Treasury.⁶

To be clear, these requests were put forth unanimously by a Board of Governors with a Republican majority—all of whom were appointed by President Trump.

The Postal Service is an indispensable component of America’s critical infrastructure, and its workers are on the frontlines every single day delivering information and packages to the American people. We strongly support emergency funding for the Postal Service and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,


Carolyn B. Maloney

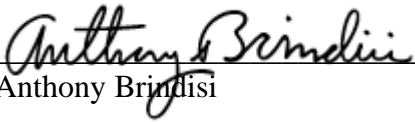

Peter T. King

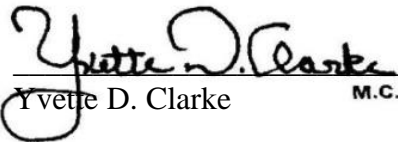
³ U.S. Postal Service, *The United States Postal Service Economic Impact: The State of New York* (July 2019).

⁴ New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, *Executive Order No. 202.15: Continuing Temporary Suspension and Modification of Laws Relating to the Disaster Emergency* (Apr. 9, 2020) (online at: www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20215-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency).

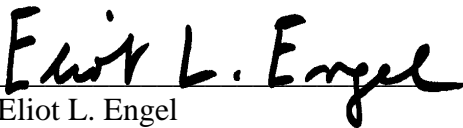
⁵ U.S. Postal Service, *Sizing It Up* (online at <https://facts.usps.com/size-and-scope>).

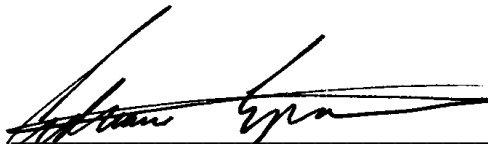
⁶ Briefing by Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Postal Service, to Committee on Oversight and Reform (Apr. 9, 2020).



Anthony Brindisi

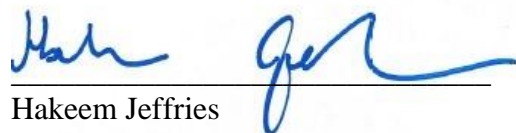

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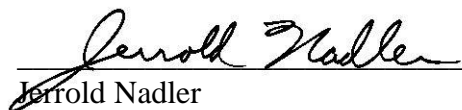

John Katko


Sean Patrick Maloney


Gregory W. Meeks


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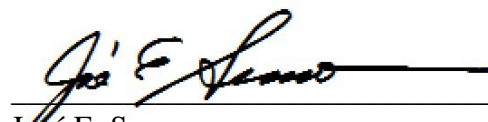

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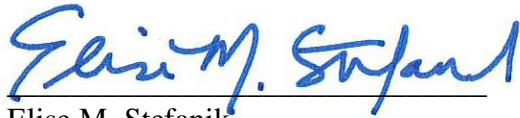

Kathleen M. Rice


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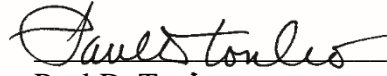

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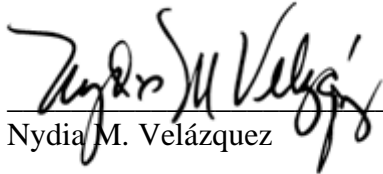
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Elise M. Stefanik



Paul D. Tonko



Nydia M. Velázquez

cc: The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Appropriations;
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member of the House Committee on
Appropriations