

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 4, 2021

Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General and CEO  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza  
Washington DC, 20260

Tom Samra  
Vice President, Facilities  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza  
Washington DC, 20260

William Schwartz  
District Manager – Portland District  
United States Postal Service  
7007 NE Cornfoot Rd. Dept. 100  
Portland, OR 97218

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy, Mr. Samra, and Mr. Schwartz:

We write today to express our profound concerns about the process of relocating the West Linn Post Office, and to implore you to take immediate action to remedy these concerns.

For more than two years USPS has been aware that it must secure a new permanent Post Office location in the community of West Linn. Yet today, no such location has been identified and the agency has announced plans to vacate its current building in West Linn later this month. This will mean temporarily relocating outside of the city for what appears to be an indefinite amount of time.

As the search for a new location has continued, West Linn postal customers have grown increasingly frustrated, both by the lack of progress but also by a lack of communication with the public. Short term lease extensions have come and gone, requests for updates gone unanswered, and community members are uncertain whether their city will have a Post Office in a few months. While we understand the relocation process is not easy, we find the lack of public transparency to be unacceptable.

West Linn residents rely on their Post Office branch for correspondence with loved ones, prescriptions by mail, shipping services for their small businesses, and other necessities. We appreciate the great work of the individuals who staff the branch and the letter carriers who deliver mail to West Linn customers. However, the executives tasked with securing a new location and communicating with the public have not lived up to those same standards.

Throughout the search our offices have reached out to USPS leadership on several occasions, urging a better process. In June of 2019, at our request, USPS held a public meeting to brief residents on the status of the search. Unfortunately, we remain unsatisfied with the lack of roadmap that USPS has provided for West Linn in the eighteen months since that meeting. This concern was highlighted in September 2020, when we partnered with community members to prompt USPS to sign another lease extension. Had we not intervened, it appears that the West Linn branch would have closed less than two months before

residents were set to submit their ballots by mail in an historic election, just three months before the holiday peak mail season, and in the middle of a global pandemic.

For the last several years, we have spoken with and written letters to USPS national executives, prompted local leadership for updates and communication, and worked with the West Linn community to explore myriad relocation options. Today, we write to ask for immediate action and a swift response to the following requests:

- 1) Please provide a clear, detailed explanation of the work USPS will do over the next 30, 60, and 90 days to find a suitable location where the West Linn branch can be relocated.
- 2) Please explain the steps USPS will take to maintain accessible postal service for West Linn postal customers until a new, permanent location for the branch is found.
- 3) Please specify what USPS will do to ensure a seamless transition into the new location and to prevent any interruption of services for West Linn postal customers.
- 4) Please detail the process USPS will implement to communicate timely updates about the current status—and next steps—of the relocation process to West Linn community leaders and residents.

Faithful USPS customers have kept the West Linn post office in business since 1850, and they need reliable, quality postal service now more than ever. After nearly three years of relocation efforts, we look forward to the most direct resolution of this process possible. Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
U.S. Senator



Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress