

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 11, 2022

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General & Chief
Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 L' Enfant Plaza Southwest
Washington, DC 20260

Gary R. Barksdale
USPS Chief Postal Inspector
475 L' Enfant Plaza Southwest
Washington, DC 20260

Tammy Whitcomb Hull
USPS Inspector General
1735 North Lynn Street Arlington,
Virginia 22209-2020

David Camp
USPS Texas 2, District Manager
4600 Aldine Bender Road, Room 800
Houston, Texas 77315-9998

Dear Postmaster DeJoy, Ms. Hull, Mr. Barksdale, and Mr. Camp,

We write today to inquire about the increase in postal theft in Texas' Fourteenth Congressional District and to ask what steps the United States Postal Service (USPS) is taking to combat this urgent and ongoing problem.

As you know, the USPS is one of the few federal agencies the U.S. public deals with daily—whether it involves the delivery of life-saving medications, the distribution of much-needed income, payment for goods and services, and even allowing elected members of Congress to communicate with their constituents. It is essential our constituents have faith that the USPS will serve our nation rain or shine, and deliver mail with the utmost care and protection.

In recent months, many constituents have contacted our offices with concerns about postal theft and mail that has never reached its destination or was not delivered. This is occurring every day across Southeast Texas, and it is imperative to our constituents and the American public that they can rely on this age-old institution to pay bills and receive medications and other important daily items.

Businesses and individuals have been deeply affected by these persistent problems, some even outlining the loss of tens of thousands of dollars in specific instances. Even the local newspaper has gotten involved. The Galveston County *Daily News*

reported, "From January 1, 2020, to August 14, 2022, the Galveston Police Department took reports of 140 cases of checks stolen after being mailed, altered through a process called washing, and cashed for amounts averaging about \$7,000 but reaching as much as \$34,221, according to documents The Daily News obtained through the Texas Public Information Act." It is shocking when even one instance of postal theft occurs, but when it has repeatedly been happening at this magnitude, something must be done.

We are requesting the USPS's assistance in addressing the concerns raised regarding the increases in postal theft and other service-related issues. To provide transparency to the constituents we represent, we request you answer the following questions by **December 2, 2022**.

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What is the status of any USPS investigations regarding postal theft in Southeast Texas?
2. What methods are being used to investigate the mail theft at the Bob Lyons Post Office?
3. Has the USPS documented an increase in mail theft complaints in recent years? If so, please share the data you have compiled related to these complaints.
4. Does the Houston-Galveston region have a higher postal theft rate than other areas across the country? If not, how does it rank?
5. How many complaints of check washing or mail theft has the Postal Inspection Service or Office of the Inspector General received related to the Galveston Post Office?
6. Is the USPS partnering with local and/or federal law enforcement to investigate these crimes? If so, what actions are they taking to combat this issue?
7. What operational changes has USPS made or is planning to make at the Galveston Post Office location or other area facilities to address check washing or mail theft?
8. What steps can people take to better protect themselves from postal theft?
9. Where can people go to report issues of postal theft?

Thank you for your time and attention to these urgent issues. We look forward to your responses and a pathway forward to fixing these problems.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Randy K. Weber
United States Representative