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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

June 8, 2020

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Ms. Le Gretta Ross-Rawlins  
Acting District Manager  
South Jersey District  
United States Postal Service  
501 Benigno Boulevard  
Bellmawr, New Jersey 08031-2526

Dear Ms. Ross-Rawlins,

I am writing as a follow-up to our June 3, 2020, meeting in which we discussed the specific workplace and health care concerns raised by many postal workers within the South Jersey District as we all battle the coronavirus.

I appreciate your taking the time—and assembling key staff—to discuss important precautions and protocols that have been put in place as well as those that may be underutilized or still under consideration. The information you and your team provided about access to and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) was extensive and more recently collaborated by postal workers. We thank you for the extra efforts made to obtain PPE.

With regard to communicating and advising personnel about positive COVID-19 infections, I remain hopeful that more extensive, specific information about each incident can be incorporated into the stand-up talks given to all employees. It has been reported that the “generic” nature of the talks raises more fears causing people to speculate and become susceptible to rumors.

Obviously, privacy laws preclude certain information from being disseminated. Yet in our meeting, you reported a thoughtful five-step process established to ensure that the occupational nurse notifies those who are believed to be vulnerable and advises what needs to be accomplished before those infected, or those directly exposed, can return to work. Similarly, you outlined a deliberate sanitizing and cleansing process for any work space that may have been compromised and a regular cleaning process for those spaces more commonly used.

Unfortunately, the information provided in our meeting does not seem to be reaching enough of those who work in the facilities—nor does it match the views they shared with me. Informing all the employees of the procedures and providing more tailored details in the stand-up talks about the steps the USPS is reportedly taking (once notified of a positive COVID-19 determination) could help ensure that personnel are up-to-date on stated precautions and may

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help address the genuine concerns expressed by people who continue working during these unprecedented times.

We also discussed ongoing efforts to ensure that all employees are abiding by the base protocols for social distancing, wearing masks and regular handwashing while at their job sites. Consistent efforts in these areas are reportedly needed to prompt all employees to comply and enhance awareness about how workers can help protect each other.

The possibility of temperature screening for employees in the South Jersey District is another health precaution we discussed. It is my understanding that the USPS is establishing pilot projects for temperature checks as it reviews the possibility of a nationwide program. I urge you and your team to consider the feasibility of a South Jersey District facility becoming a pilot program site—or independently implementing a district-wide temperature screening program.

I am truly grateful to you, your staff and all the employees of the USPS who remain on the front lines—essential to our economy and the delivery of currency, goods and needed medicines. I know you share my concern for protecting the health and welfare of this incredible workforce and I appreciate your commitment to continually address these and other health and safety vulnerabilities postal workers have raised during the pandemic.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the indispensability of the USPS and issues specific to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your colleagues on this or any other matter of concern.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress

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