

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 6, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

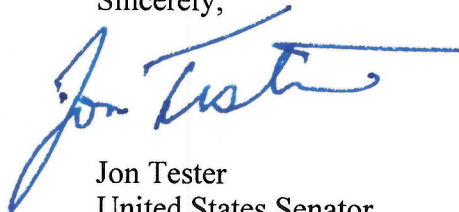
I am writing to you regarding continued concerns I hear from Montanans over delayed postal delivery in various parts of the state. These ongoing issues make it critically important that the United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors vacancies are filled with candidates that have experience in postal matters in rural communities. I ask you to send the Board of Governors nominees to Congress as soon as possible so we may start working toward the long-term solutions rural postal workers and customers deserve.

I remain concerned that USPS leadership has not yet found a solution to address low pay in areas with high-cost of living. Montanans depend on reliable postal service to pay their bills, receive their medications, and support small businesses. I am alarmed that this ongoing staffing crisis in these areas is delaying postal customers in receiving these essential services. USPS is failing its own retention goals for non-career employees and as a result, Montana postal workers are being spread thin and working more than 60 hours a week.

I hear from fellow rural Montanans in places such as Lewistown, that business leaders who rely on signatures for day-to-day transactions are instructing Montanans to not use USPS because of its unreliability, and instead are encouraging them to use FedEx or UPS. USPS delivers not only packages and first class mail, but local newspapers, federal benefits, IRS correspondence, and critical medications as well. It is unacceptable that folks are being asked to shoulder the burden of paying for a service that USPS is no longer able to reliably provide in rural communities.

We must have an experienced Board of Governors that is prepared to address delivery delays in rural communities. I urge you to swiftly nominate individuals to the Board of Governors that will do just that. I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Tester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Jon Tester
United States Senator