



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

August 9, 2022

U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors:

As you convene the next U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors meeting, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington ("CREW") writes to express our concern that Louis DeJoy continues to occupy the role of Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service ("USPS"). CREW is a nonprofit, non-partisan government ethics organization that works to keep public officials accountable to the American people they serve. Since Mr. DeJoy assumed office in 2020, CREW has consistently sounded the alarm that he has failed to uphold his ethical obligations and to act in accordance with a commitment to a democratic system of government with free and fair elections.¹ We believe that it is time for the Board of Governors to remove him from his role as Postmaster General.

Since Mr. DeJoy became Postmaster General, he has kept himself in a position to place his personal financial and political interests above the public good. In August 2020, CREW sent a letter calling attention to Mr. DeJoy's risk of violating the primary criminal conflict of interest statute, 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), which prohibits an individual from participating personally and substantially in any matter in which they are known to have a financial interest if that matter directly and predictably affects their financial interest. In apparent violation of that statute, after assuming his role as Postmaster General, Mr. DeJoy retained stocks and stock options worth tens of millions of dollars in a USPS contractor, XPO Logistics. Moreover, on June 24, 2020, eight days after assuming leadership of the U.S. Postal Service, Mr. DeJoy bought stock options worth up to \$100,000 in one of the agency's biggest customers and competitors, Amazon. Although Mr. DeJoy has insisted that he has recused himself from matters that affect these businesses, these financial entanglements not only put him at risk of violating the criminal conflict of interest law, but also create an appearance that the USPS is an ethically compromised institution.

¹ See, e.g., Letter from Noah Bookbinder to FBI Director Christopher Wray, Aug. 20, 2020 ("CREW August 2020 complaint"), <https://www.citizensforethics.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/2020/08/2020-08-20-DeJoy-Letter-to-Wray-FINAL.docx.pdf>; Letter from Noah Bookbinder to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, Aug. 21, 2022, <https://www.citizensforethics.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/2020/08/Letter-to-Postmaster-General-Louis-DeJoy-from-CREW-1.pdf>; Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, [CREW Sues USPS on Louis DeJoy Conflicts](https://www.citizensforethics.org/legal-action/lawsuits/usps-louis-dejoy-conflicts/), Oct. 13, 2020, <https://www.citizensforethics.org/legal-action/lawsuits/usps-louis-dejoy-conflicts/>.

As egregious as Mr. DeJoy's financial conflicts are, his actions in relation to the 2020 presidential election, when he pursued his own personal political interests above the national interest, are perhaps even more troubling. As has been widely reported, publicly available information and statements from Mr. DeJoy suggested that he and others unlawfully commanded the USPS to make policy changes at the agency that would depress or delay voting by mail during the 2020 presidential election, despite the increased demand due to the coronavirus pandemic.² These actions not only delegitimized the very agency that he leads, but may have also violated federal law. As CREW made clear in a criminal complaint we filed in August 2020, criminal law (18 U.S.C. § 610) prohibits anyone from commanding any employee of the federal government to engage in political activities.³ Another provision (18 U.S.C. § 595) bars anyone "employed in any administrative position by the United States" from using, in connection with any federally-funded activity, their "official authority for the purpose of interfering with, or affecting, the nomination or the election of any candidate for the office of President."⁴

Given these serious and well-documented concerns and the accompanying erosion of public trust in your agency, CREW believes that Mr. DeJoy's continued employment as Postmaster General is not in the best interests of the USPS and the nation it serves. By law, the Board of Governors has the authority to appoint and remove the Postmaster General.⁵ We urge you to consider his removal. Removing Mr. DeJoy from public office would send a clear signal that the USPS upholds a high ethical standard, takes conflicts of interests seriously, and is steadfast in its commitment to democratic institutions. Although we believe it is in the best interests of the country to remove Mr. DeJoy from his role as Postmaster General, if you decide not to seek Mr. DeJoy's removal, we believe that it is imperative for you to give a public explanation for letting him retain his position. After two years of misconduct and ethical lapses on the part of the USPS's leader, the public deserves to know the USPS's rationale for keeping its leadership in place.

A key part of the USPS's stated mission is "[t]o serve the American people" and "[t]o provide trusted, safe and secure communications and services between our Government and the American people, businesses and their customers, and the American people with each other."⁶ As long as Mr. DeJoy occupies the position of Postmaster General, this mission is at risk. In this moment, the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors is in a position to restore public trust in the USPS, an agency that provides vital services on which Americans depend, particularly now. We therefore urge you to take action and restore integrity in your agency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

² CREW August 2020 Complaint.

³ *Id.*; 18 U.S.C. § 610.

⁴ 18 U.S.C. § 595.

⁵ 39 U.S.C. § 202.

⁶ U.S. Postal Service, About the United States Postal Service, <https://about.usps.com/who/profile/>

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noah Bookbinder', with a stylized, cursive script.

Noah Bookbinder
President