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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX POLICY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 9, 2020

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy,

I am writing to determine the operating status of mail sorting machines at the Redmond, WA postal facility. A deeply concerning August 19, 2020 report stated that five of the 12 delivery barcode sorter (DBCS) machines at the Redmond facility had been removed from service^[i] and on August 28, 2020 eight members of Washington state's congressional delegation sent a letter urging USPS to reinstall the machines. Following the August letter, on September 17, 2020, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington issued an injunction that requires the Postal Service to replace, reassemble, or reconnect any equipment that will impede the ability of the Postal Service to process election mail for the November 2020 election in accordance with First Class delivery standards.^[iii] Nearly a month after that injunction the public still has not received confirmation that the machines have been restored to service.

DBCS machines are critical for the efficient and timely delivery of mail since they can each sort up to 36,000 pieces of mail per hour. My constituents have already felt the impact of these changes. Veterans are no longer receiving necessary medication in a timely manner, constituents are facing late fees on bills, and small business operations are being hampered since the removal of the sorting machines. Furthermore, Washington state is an entirely vote-by-mail state, with election ballots due to be mailed to voters starting October 16, 2020. I am concerned that the removal of DBCS machines in Redmond will adversely impact the timely delivery and return of ballots.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you provide answers to the following questions:

- Please provide the operating status of all DBCS machines at the Redmond facility. Specifically, please clarify if any DBCS machines were ever removed from service from the Redmond facility, the dates they were removed from service, and the dates they may have been actively returned to service.
- If any DBCS machines were removed from service at the Redmond facility, please disclose the date that all DBCS machines will be fully restored to service and used for mail sorting.

Thank you for your attention to this important and urgent matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzan K. DelBene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

^[i] <https://www.kuow.org/stories/nearly-half-of-mail-sorting-machines-in-seattle-area-already-dismantled>

^[ii] https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Another/News/Press_Releases/ECF%2081%20-%20Order%20Granting%20PI.pdf