

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Ms. Tammy Edwards,  
Northern Virginia District Manager  
8409 Lee Highway, Room 210  
Merrifield VA 22081-9996

Dear Ms. Edwards:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

We are encouraged by the September 25, 2020 U.S. Postal Service (USPS) memo “Additional Resources for Election mail Beginning October 1,” in particular, the Postal Service’s commitment that “our number one priority is the proper handling and timely delivery of all Election Mail, especially ballots.” The U.S. Postal Service will play a critical role in election administration this year. Because of the global pandemic, millions of Virginians are expected to rely on the Postal Service to exercise their rights to vote through absentee/vote by mail ballots. We must get this right.

As of September 28, 2020, at least 972,000 Virginians have requested or cast absentee/vote by mail ballots, nearly four times more the total number of absentee/vote by mail ballots requested or cast in the 2016 election. There are fewer than 30 days remaining in the early voting period in Virginia, and the absentee/vote by mail ballot share this year is expected to account for a substantial portion of the total Virginia electorate.

We must protect the franchise of all Virginians who wish to cast a ballot by mail. If ballot return envelopes are not postmarked, they risk being invalidated through no fault of the voter. Under Virginia law, absentee/vote by mail ballots that are received after Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> — Election Day — are validly cast so long as the ballot return envelope is postmarked by Election Day and received by local registrars no later than noon on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.<sup>[1]</sup> We are not aware of any policy by the United States Postal Service or Virginia regional postmasters to postmark election-related mail and/or ballot return envelopes. As a result, ballot return envelopes arriving at local registrar offices without postmarks may be invalidated, even if voters validly sent these ballots on or before Election Day as required by Virginia law.

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<sup>[1]</sup> VA Code Ann § 24.2-709 (B) (“Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, any absentee ballot (i) returned to the general registrar after the closing of the polls on election day but before noon on the third day after the election and (ii) postmarked on or before the date of the election shall be counted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this chapter if the voter is found entitled to vote. For purposes of this subsection, a postmark shall include any other official indicia of confirmation of mailing by the United States Postal Service or other postal or delivery service.”)

Accordingly, we seek a commitment from your office that absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes sent by voters in Virginia through November 3, 2020, will be postmarked. Your assistance will ensure that all eligible Virginians who vote on time as required by law can cast a ballot and have their vote count.

We appreciate all the work that you do. Given the urgency of this issue, we request that you respond to this letter no later than October 12, 2020 with a commitment to postmark all mail in ballots.

Sincerely,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Kerwin Delaney  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
Merrifield P&DC  
8409 Lee Highway, Room 203  
Merrifield VA 22081-9992

Dear Mr. Delaney:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

We are encouraged by the September 25, 2020 U.S. Postal Service (USPS) memo “Additional Resources for Election mail Beginning October 1,” in particular, the Postal Service’s commitment that “our number one priority is the proper handling and timely delivery of all Election Mail, especially ballots.” The U.S. Postal Service will play a critical role in election administration this year. Because of the global pandemic, millions of Virginians are expected to rely on the Postal Service to exercise their rights to vote through absentee/vote by mail ballots. We must get this right.

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/s/  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

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/s/  
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Member of Congress

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/s/  
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Dennis Voorhees  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
Winchester Post Office  
PO Box 3603  
Winchester VA 22604-2593

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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Member of Congress

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/s/  
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

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/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Christian Ropple  
Alexandria Postmaster  
1100 Wythe St  
Alexandria VA 22313-9998

Dear Mr. Ropple:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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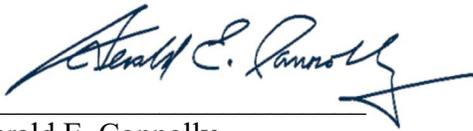
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Member of Congress

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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

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/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. James Bryson  
Arlington Postmaster  
3118 Washington Blvd  
Arlington VA 22201-9998

Dear Mr. Bryson:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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Member of Congress

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/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Gerald Roane  
Richmond District Manager  
1800 Brook Rd  
Richmond VA 23232-9990

Dear Mr. Roane:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Richard Green  
Senior Manager, Post Office Operations  
1800 Brook Rd  
Richmond VA 23232-9992

Dear Mr. Green:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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Jennifer Wexton  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Bruce Babbs  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
1151 Seminole Trail  
Charlottesville, VA 22901-9992

Dear Mr. Babbs:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Darryl Seay  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
3530 Post Office Rd.  
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Mr. Seay:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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<sup>[1]</sup> VA Code Ann § 24.2-709 (B) (“Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, any absentee ballot (i) returned to the general registrar after the closing of the polls on election day but before noon on the third day after the election and (ii) postmarked on or before the date of the election shall be counted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this chapter if the voter is found entitled to vote. For purposes of this subsection, a postmark shall include any other official indicia of confirmation of mailing by the United States Postal Service or other postal or delivery service.”)

Accordingly, we seek a commitment from your office that absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes sent by voters in Virginia through November 3, 2020, will be postmarked. Your assistance will ensure that all eligible Virginians who vote on time as required by law can cast a ballot and have their vote count.

We appreciate all the work that you do. Given the urgency of this issue, we request that you respond to this letter no later than October 12, 2020 with a commitment to postmark all mail in ballots.

Sincerely,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Ms. Cheryl Miller  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
5219 Monticello Ave  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116--9992

Dear Ms. Miller:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

We are encouraged by the September 25, 2020 U.S. Postal Service (USPS) memo “Additional Resources for Election mail Beginning October 1,” in particular, the Postal Service’s commitment that “our number one priority is the proper handling and timely delivery of all Election Mail, especially ballots.” The U.S. Postal Service will play a critical role in election administration this year. Because of the global pandemic, millions of Virginians are expected to rely on the Postal Service to exercise their rights to vote through absentee/vote by mail ballots. We must get this right.

As of September 28, 2020, at least 972,000 Virginians have requested or cast absentee/vote by mail ballots, nearly four times more the total number of absentee/vote by mail ballots requested or cast in the 2016 election. There are fewer than 30 days remaining in the early voting period in Virginia, and the absentee/vote by mail ballot share this year is expected to account for a substantial portion of the total Virginia electorate.

We must protect the franchise of all Virginians who wish to cast a ballot by mail. If ballot return envelopes are not postmarked, they risk being invalidated through no fault of the voter. Under Virginia law, absentee/vote by mail ballots that are received after Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> — Election Day — are validly cast so long as the ballot return envelope is postmarked by Election Day and received by local registrars no later than noon on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.<sup>[1]</sup> We are not aware of any policy by the United States Postal Service or Virginia regional postmasters to postmark election-related mail and/or ballot return envelopes. As a result, ballot return envelopes arriving at local registrar offices without postmarks may be invalidated, even if voters validly sent these ballots on or before Election Day as required by Virginia law.

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/s/  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Edward Williamson  
Richmond Postmaster  
1800 Brook Rd  
Richmond VA 23232-9998

Dear Mr. Williamson:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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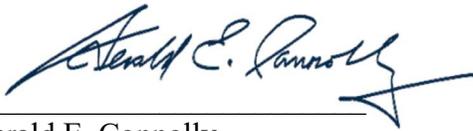
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<sup>[1]</sup> VA Code Ann § 24.2-709 (B) (“Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, any absentee ballot (i) returned to the general registrar after the closing of the polls on election day but before noon on the third day after the election and (ii) postmarked on or before the date of the election shall be counted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this chapter if the voter is found entitled to vote. For purposes of this subsection, a postmark shall include any other official indicia of confirmation of mailing by the United States Postal Service or other postal or delivery service.”)

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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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/s/  
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Mr. Joe Croce  
Virginia Beach Postmaster  
P.O. Box 2215  
Virginia Beach, VA 23450-9998

Dear Mr. Croce:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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Member of Congress

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A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

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/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

Ms. Tashonda Harley  
Roanoke Postmaster  
419 Rutherford Ave NE  
Roanoke VA 24022-9998

Dear Ms. Harley:

As members of the Virginia delegation, we write to seek your assistance in ensuring that all eligible Virginians who timely cast a ballot are able to exercise their rights to vote this November. Specifically, we ask that all absentee/vote by mail ballot return envelopes coming through your local post offices be postmarked through November 3, 2020.

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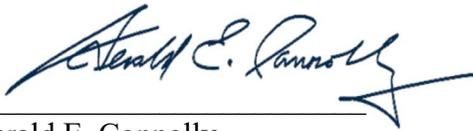
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<sup>[1]</sup> VA Code Ann § 24.2-709 (B) (“Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, any absentee ballot (i) returned to the general registrar after the closing of the polls on election day but before noon on the third day after the election and (ii) postmarked on or before the date of the election shall be counted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this chapter if the voter is found entitled to vote. For purposes of this subsection, a postmark shall include any other official indicia of confirmation of mailing by the United States Postal Service or other postal or delivery service.”)

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