

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 3rd — 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 6th.^[1] 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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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

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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.

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A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

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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. Vorhees:

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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A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

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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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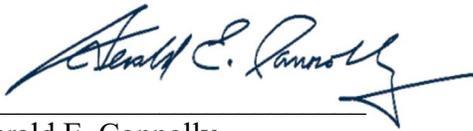
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Member of Congress

/s/
A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

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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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A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

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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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A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

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Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

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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
Member of Congress

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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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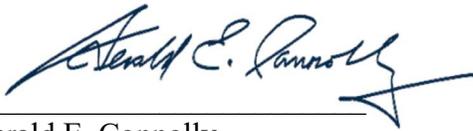
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Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Seay:

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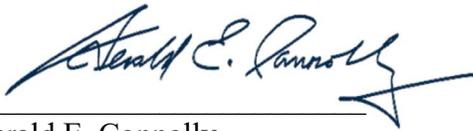
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October 8, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Miller:

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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 3rd — 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 6th.^[1] 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.

^[1] 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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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. 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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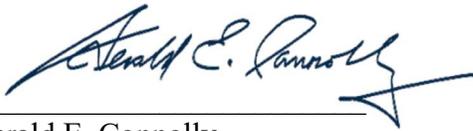
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Member of Congress

/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. 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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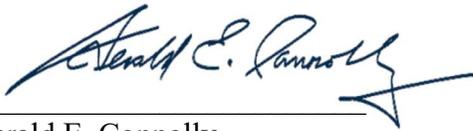
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Member of Congress

/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. 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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