

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

August 19, 2020

The Honorable Robert M. Duncan
Chairman
U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Chairman Duncan:

I write regarding my ongoing oversight of the Board of Governors' selection of Louis DeJoy as the next Postmaster General of the U.S. Postal Service.

In my June 14th letter to you, I requested the Board immediately disclose all materials related to its search process for a new Postmaster so that Americans who rely on the Postal Service could know whether Mr. DeJoy was selected for improper reasons of politics or patronage. I also called on the Board to be fully transparent regarding its controversial choice, including providing information related to the roles of national executive search firm Russell Reynolds Associates and White House and Treasury Department officials in this selection.

Since assuming his position, Mr. DeJoy has made a series of damaging operational changes that have led to reports of dramatic delays in the delivery of mail, including paychecks, prescription drugs, and mail-in ballots. These delays – taking place during a devastating global pandemic and a national election – have only heightened the need for answers on why Mr. DeJoy was selected.

In your July 2nd response to me, the Board asserted that much of the information I requested was confidential and declined to provide it. As a result, my staff sought the cooperation of Russell Reynolds with Congress and a briefing from Kimberly Archer, co-leader of its global nonprofit practice, who worked on the search process. My office was informed by counsel for Russell Reynolds that the Board was not willing to waive its non-disclosure agreement so that Congress could satisfy its oversight obligations to better understand the selection of Mr. DeJoy.

In addition, the Board's response was silent on the role White House and Treasury Department officials played in the search process. Recent reports have raised President Trump's personal obsession with and grievances against the Postal Service and his desire to replace the former Postmaster. As part of my inquiry, my office learned of the role Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had with Postal Board of Governors, including through meetings with individual Governors as well as phone calls with groups of Governors, which has not been previously disclosed by the Board.

This administration has repeatedly pointed to the role of Russell Reynolds to defend the selection of a Republican mega-donor with no prior postal experience as Postmaster General while at the same time blocking the ability of Congress to obtain briefings from the firm and concealing the role of Secretary Mnuchin and the White House in its search process.

Given the importance of the Postal Service to millions of Americans, I urge you as Chairman of the Postal Board of Governors to be fully transparent regarding the selection of Mr. DeJoy as Postmaster General. I request that you immediately release Russell Reynolds from any non-disclosure agreement so that Congress and the communities served by the Postal Service can obtain the full story behind Mr. DeJoy's selection. I also call on you to direct the Board to provide a complete and fulsome explanation of the role of President Trump and Secretary Mnuchin in the search process for a new Postmaster and the selection of Mr. DeJoy.

Thank you for your immediate attention to a matter that impacts every American who relies on the Postal Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator