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July 26, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Whitcomb Hull
Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia, 22209-2020

Dear Inspector General Hull:

I am writing to formally request an audit of the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) concerning the implementation and effectiveness of the joint initiative Project Safe Delivery in the Sacramento region, as well as the response to cluster mailbox (CBU) theft and vandalism in the area.

Over the past year, my office has been inundated with reports from constituents regarding the theft and vandalism of cluster mailboxes (CBUs). Following extensive correspondence with USPIS and USPS, our office received a briefing on the joint initiative Project Safe Delivery and the processes for reporting thefts and vandalism for further investigation and potential resolution.

I understand that one of Project Safe Delivery's core aims is to enhance the security and reliability of mail delivery. Many of my constituents have been victims of both mail theft, including stolen high-value items such as passports, checks, and essential medication, and vandalized and inoperable CBUs. As a result of the crime perpetrated against my constituents, they are further aggrieved as they are often required to retrieve their mail from a full-service post office miles away. This is particularly problematic for seniors and disabled individuals who need timely access to their mail.

Earlier this year, I hosted a virtual town hall for residents in the Sacramento region with USPIS and USPS to discuss appropriate reporting processes involved and the ways in which both USPIS and USPS are attempting to remedy the theft and vandalism problems. Despite our collaborative efforts with USPIS and USPS to address these issues, residents in the Sacramento region continue to be victimized by mail theft and vandalism. As a result, I am requesting an audit of Project Safe Delivery to measure if it is meeting its core aims of enhancing security and reliability of mail delivery and to help those in the Sacramento region move towards curing the rampant mail theft and CBU vandalism they are experiencing.

I request that the audit addresses the following:

- The frequency and nature of CBU theft incidents reported in the Sacramento area over the past year.

- Steps taken by USPIS and USPS to address and prevent these thefts.
- The effectiveness of these measures and Project Safe Delivery in reducing the occurrence of such thefts.
- Collaboration with local law enforcement agencies to tackle these issues.
- An audit by the USPS Office of Inspector General will provide valuable insights and recommendations to ensure that our postal system operates securely and efficiently.

I request a response outlining the expected timeline for completing this audit by August 25, 2024. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ami Bera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ami" and the last name "Bera" clearly distinguishable.

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress