

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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APPROPRIATIONS
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS

September 16, 2025

Postmaster General David Steiner
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner:

I write to express serious concerns about persistent and widespread United States Postal Service (USPS) delays occurring across South Dakota.

Last year, I expressed significant reservations about USPS not adequately considering the impact of facility realignment/downsizing under the Mail Processing Facility Review on rural states like South Dakota. As a result, Postmaster General DeJoy made a personal commitment to me that South Dakota mail would stay in the state. He also assured me that mail in South Dakota would still meet service standards.

Neither is happening. In recent weeks, I have heard from hundreds of constituents across South Dakota voicing substantial issues with USPS service in my state. These issues are caused by the flawed design of the USPS network, which all but guarantees that mail traveling across or to South Dakota must travel in a circuitous manner through locations around and outside of the state. The result is that mail in South Dakota is delivered well outside of acceptable standards. These delays are worsened by implementation of transportation optimization schemes, which have caused USPS to deliver dozens of local newspapers late.

I have also heard of significant delays from veterans who depend on USPS for vital medications. USPS delays also mean that by the time a veteran's Community Care Network appointment letter arrives, the appointment date has already passed and results in a missed appointment. Furthermore, a leading private sector regional health care system told me that by the time some delayed medications arrived, they could no longer be used. They also told me that those issues had become persistent and at times reached the "point of jeopardizing patient care."

Feedback from my constituents is clear: USPS service has significantly declined across South Dakota. It is therefore clear to me that USPS's operational changes are failing South Dakota and do not comply with USPS obligations for universal service under federal law.

I ask that you immediately investigate these concerns and begin work to make all changes necessary to restore reliable mail service to South Dakota. Within the next seven days, I request a meeting to discuss these issues with you and proposed solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. Michael Rounds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and last name "Rounds" clearly legible.

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

P.S. I am emailing this to you because if I mailed it, you might not receive this letter in time.