

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

May 6, 2015

Megan J. Brennan  
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

As the United States Postal Service (USPS) begins the process of replacing the aging mail delivery vehicle fleet, we urge you to take this opportunity to finally invest in a modern, leading-edge, efficient Postal Service fleet. Our nation's largest civilian fleet should serve as a global leader in efficiency and innovation.

Earlier this year, the Postal Service began a three-year process to procure over 180,000 new vehicles through your Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV) Acquisition Program. We are glad to see the Postal Service finally taking the needed steps to replace the 141,000 aging Grumman LLVs, which average less than 10 miles per gallon, incur high maintenance costs, and dramatically increase delivery costs.

Based on the Request for Information (RFI) that the Postal Service released on January 20, 2015, we are encouraged that the USPS plans to improve its fleet. However, we believe stronger and more specific requirements must be included in the upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) to realize the full potential for efficiency, durability, and clean vehicle technology.

For example, the RFI would allow the purchase of "either a dedicated or dual fueled" alternative fuel vehicle. Simply purchasing dual-fueled vehicles, however, does not lead to a reduction in petroleum use. The USPS currently has 40,000 flex-fuel vehicles and minivans that can operate on E85 or gasoline, but the Government Accountability Office has showed that 54% of these vehicles run exclusively on gasoline due to availability and price factors. The RFP should ensure that any alternative fuel vehicles that are purchased will actually be run on a clean alternative fuel.

We are also concerned that USPS intends to procure a "one size fits all" vehicle. We understand that the Postal Service believes this approach maximizes purchasing power and could lower the upfront initial cost. However, given the diverse conditions USPS vehicles are driven in—in different weather and terrain, and in urban and rural environments—we believe this approach will limit the fleet's efficiency significantly. Clearly some of the service routes could be served well by all-electric vehicles, while others may require vehicles with longer range. The Postal Service's major commercial competitors like FedEx and UPS use a wide variety of vehicle types and fuels to maximize efficiency and lower costs, and other federal agencies also vary their vehicle fleets across the country. In fact, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy,

FedEx and UPS implemented delivery vehicle technological enhancements such as installing hydraulic hybrid transmissions that increase fuel efficiency, reduce emissions, and dramatically improve vehicle durability, eliminating the need to regularly replace brakes and starter motors at a high cost. The Postal Service should aspire to be ever more nimble than its competitors in building its new fleet.

This purchase is a major decision for the Postal Service, and one that will have long-lasting effects for both employees and consumers. We therefore urge you to invest in an advanced high-efficiency vehicle fleet that will ultimately save money, reduce carbon pollution, and continue to deliver for the American people.

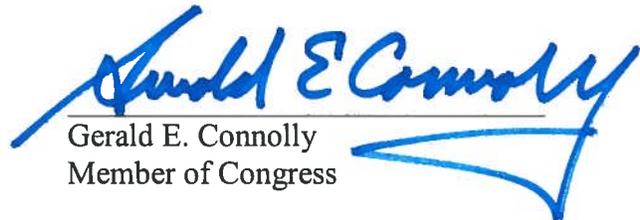
Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



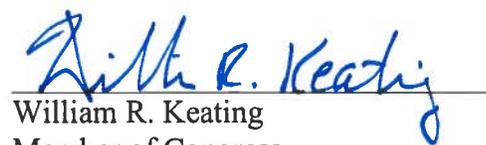
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Mark Takai  
Member of Congress



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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



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Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



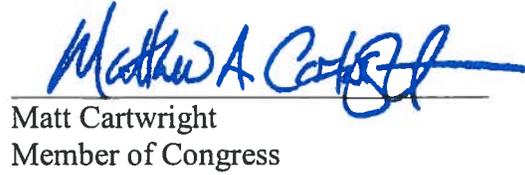
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Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



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Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



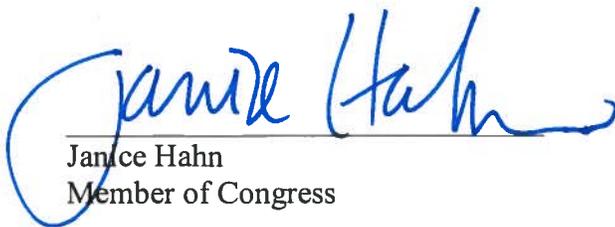
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Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



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Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



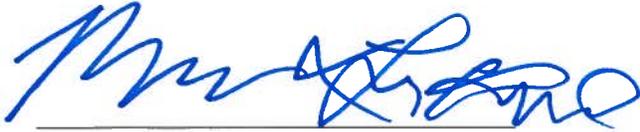
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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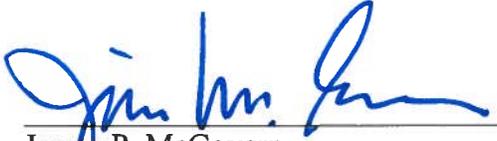
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



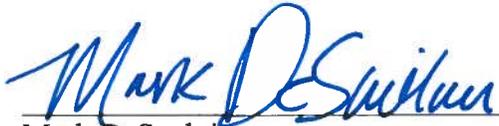
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress