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August 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

I write to urge you to include emergency funding for the United States Postal Service (USPS) in the next emergency relief package. Specifically, the Senate should provide USPS with the \$25 billion in emergency assistance included in the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES Act), which the House of Representatives passed in May. The recently proposed Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Reform, and Schools (HEALS) Act includes no such funding to ensure USPS can continue operations.

USPS has been vital to the United States for decades. With 48 percent of global mail volume, USPS processes and delivers over 472 million parcels each day. USPS has 160 million delivery points nationwide and manages over 31,000 post offices within the United States. In 2019, USPS employed over 500,000 Americans, including 97,000 military veterans, making them one of the largest employers of veterans in the country. USPS currently receives no tax dollars from the federal government and relies solely on the sale of postage, products, and services to fund its operations.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has placed extraordinary pressure on private and public institutions nationwide, and USPS is no exception. Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan warned that, without assistance, USPS could run out of funds by September—one month from now. During the pandemic, Americans have relied on USPS services more than ever. USPS has met this demand by bravely continuing to provide service in every corner of the country. During this difficult time, it is crucial that our mail sorters and mail carriers have the proper protections and support they need to continue delivering for the nation.

As the general election approaches and COVID-19 cases rise across the country, it is essential that USPS remains in operation to make mail-in voting possible this November. The strain on USPS poses a particular danger to the election, especially in states like Colorado that rely on an all vote-by-mail system. As more state and local officials prepare for elections in the context of a pandemic, many have expanded vote-by-mail and absentee ballot options. Their success will depend on a viable, functioning USPS.

In order to ensure USPS continues its operations, I urge Congress to provide \$25 billion in immediate emergency aid. I also ask that our letter sorters, carriers, and USPS professionals are included in hazard pay along with the other essential workers.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator