

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy
USPS – Headquarters
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster DeJoy,

I am writing to express my concerns over increases in PO box pricing. Access to mail is especially vital for low-income residents in my district, who often rely on the postal service to pay their bills and receive medications and other products that may not be affordable in their area. I am seeking a justification from USPS for these price increases and assurances that my constituents will not be priced out of using USPS services.

I represent one of the largest congressional districts in the country, and many of my constituents live far from essential services and with limited access to the internet. In these areas, reliable mail service is critical. However, New Mexicans in rural areas often do not have direct USPS service to their houses and may have to travel substantial distances to access their mailboxes, leaving them reliant on local PO boxes to access their mail. Those who live in urban areas also rely on a PO box for various reasons, including package theft, slow delivery times, and issues with consistent service to their homes. These problems have been compounded by the lack of adequate USPS staffing in many parts of New Mexico.

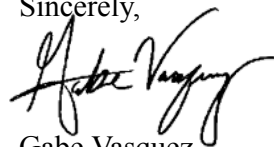
However, over the past two years, USPS' Schedule 123 indicates that PO box prices have increased significantly, in some cases as high as 30% each year. The cheapest options in many areas in my district have still increased by more than 13% in the last two years. I have heard from many of my constituents that they are struggling to afford these yearly increases. For those on fixed incomes, especially seniors, continued price increases are unsustainable and unacceptable.

I am dedicated to ensuring that all of my constituents can continue to reliably and affordably receive their mail. Therefore, I request that USPS provide answers to the following questions:

1. What factors have led to these large rate increases for PO box service over the past two years?
2. What mechanisms or plans does USPS currently have in place to prevent excessive rate hikes in the future, particularly for seniors and those in rural areas?
3. How does USPS plan to ensure that mail is accessible to all, including those who may not be able to afford increased PO box prices?

Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress