

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2026

David P. Steiner
Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Postmaster General Steiner:

I write to raise serious concerns about the United States Postal Service's (USPS) recent change to its postmarking policy. This policy will cause unnecessary harm to Americans sending time-sensitive mail and continues a pattern of the USPS leaving rural America behind. I urge you to reverse this decision to prevent unnecessary harm caused by delaying postmarkings on mail.

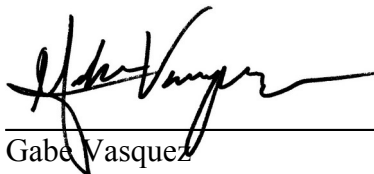
For decades, the USPS has postmarked mail on the same date it was dropped off. Late last year, the USPS abruptly changed its postmarking policy, instead using the date an item is processed at a regional processing facility. Millions of Americans, especially seniors and those in rural communities, rely solely on the USPS for essential services like filing their taxes, voting, paying rent and bills, and submitting documents for their Social Security and Medicare benefits. This change could delay postmarking for customers, particularly those who do not live close to a post office and those who use USPS blue boxes.

This change is in effect as we begin the 2026 tax filing season. In 2025, more than 4.4 million Americans filed paper tax returns through the mail, and for over 70 years the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has required those returns to be postmarked by April 15th to be considered timely. Under this new policy, a New Mexican who mails their tax return on April 15th, as they have for years, could face a delayed refund or even financial penalties if their mail is postmarked days later at a distant processing center.

The consequences of this change also put seniors and those receiving Social Security and Medicare benefits at risk. In New Mexico, many of these individuals live in rural areas with limited access to broadband internet services and must rely on the USPS to submit time-sensitive documents. Under this new rule, delayed postmarking could result in interruptions or cancellation of their benefits, threatening their livelihood - this is unacceptable.

This decision will have far-reaching and lasting impacts on millions of Americans who depend on the USPS for critical, time-sensitive mail. I strongly urge you to reverse this policy and ensure that all mail requiring a postmark is dated on the day it is received by USPS, as it has been for decades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabe Vasquez', is written over a horizontal line.

Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress