

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 7, 2026

The Honorable Dave Steiner  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner:

I write once again to encourage the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to re-establish a new Mule Creek post office as soon as possible, to strongly oppose closing this location permanently, and to request additional information on next steps. All residents of southern New Mexico, including those in rural and small communities, deserve reliable postal services. This time last year, I sent a letter to former Postmaster General Tulino requesting updates on when the Mule Creek USPS location would be completely restored, and I have yet to receive a response and the certainty my constituents deserve.

As you know, after the Mule Creek postal office was damaged in 2024, the landlord declined to make repairs, leaving USPS to look for new potential properties in order to reestablish continued postal service for this area. Currently, services are being provided through a mobile unit, but hours and services are extremely limited. While I appreciate the USPS's quick establishment of a mobile office, I am concerned that the search for a suitable and permanent location has been ongoing for over two years now. Furthermore, USPS has indicated that if it fails to find a new location, it will initiate discontinuance studies and permanently close the post office. I would strongly oppose any actions to terminate services or end efforts to reestablish a full-service location in Mule Creek.

As I had mentioned in my previous letter, the USPS is vital to rural communities across New Mexico. Rural residents, especially seniors, veterans, and small businesses, depend on USPS services. At the county level, the average distance to a post office in rural counties across America is roughly 8.2 miles. In 10 percent of rural counties, Americans live more than 16.2 miles away from a post office. If this location were to close, it would leave Mule Creek residents nearly 20 miles away from the nearest USPS location<sup>1</sup>.

It has been over two years since USPS has taken any action to help the residents of Mule Creek. That is why I am requesting a detailed explanation of the cause of the USPS's delay in finding a new postal office location and restoring full mail service in Mule Creek, as well as an estimated timeline for the office's reopening.

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<sup>1</sup> Patel, Elena. "The Postal Network as Economic Infrastructure: Evidence From Rural Small Businesses." Brookings, January 26, 2026. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-postal-network-as-economic-infrastructure-evidence-from-rural-small-businesses/>

Rural communities like Mule Creek depend on the USPS to provide timely and reliable mail services. I urge you to find a suitable and permanent location that restores a full postal service in Mule Creek. This is vital to ensuring that USPS is fulfilling its mandate to serve our rural communities. My constituents need robust mail service, and continuing to let this location languish without a permanent solution is unacceptable.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Vanger", is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.