



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

October 26, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Brennan:

We write to urge you to strongly consider implementing climate control units in U.S. Postal Service mail trucks for the safety of all mail carriers. Temperatures around the country can reach above 110 degrees during the most severe months, making it dangerous for postal workers to remain inside their non-air-conditioned vehicles for continuous periods of time.

On July 6, 2018, a letter carrier in Woodlands Hills, CA died tragically from overheating inside her mail truck. The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner determined that the cause of death was hyperthermia, caused by excessively high body temperature.ⁱ No public service employee should have to bear these conditions. The safety of postal workers should be a top priority for the USPS. Although the USPS implements a Heat Illness Prevention Program (HIPP), these precautions are not enough to ensure the well-being of all postal workers given that temperatures can reach excruciating degrees inside their mail delivery vehicles.

We understand that USPS is in the process of selecting the next generation delivery vehicle (NGDV) to replace more than 160,000 vehicles currently under operation.ⁱⁱ Under USPS's current minimum standards for the NGDV, air conditioning is listed as an optional requirement for potential suppliers, and that "the benefits of air conditioning are under review by the USPS."ⁱⁱⁱ As you continue the procurement process, we ask that you take in consideration the rigid conditions letter carriers across the country must endure in the face of record heat waves.

We ask that you provide answers to the following questions in hopes that we may better understand the procurement process for the NGDV and safety mechanisms set in place for letter carriers:

- What is the status of the review process regarding the benefits of air-conditioned mail trucks?
- What is the timeline for USPS beyond procurement of prototypes and selection of the NGDV fleet?
- Besides the Heat Illness Prevention Program, what steps is USPS taking to mitigate the risks of overheating?

- What protocols are in place to protect postal carriers from other extreme weather conditions, such as dangerously cold temperatures, or other natural disasters such as tornados, hurricanes, and earthquakes?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response to learn more about how we can help USPS ensure the safety of its workers.

Sincerely,



Tony Cardenas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Elijah E. Cummings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



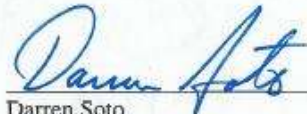
Jimmy Gomez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Eleanor Holmes Norton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Darren Soto
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Susan K. DelBene
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



James P. McGovern
MEMBER OF CONGRESS




Frank Pallone, Jr.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Grace Meng
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Charlie Crist
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Vicente Gonzalez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Alan Lowenthal
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Anna G. Eshoo
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Brad Sherman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Salud O. Carbajal
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Adam B. Schiff
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

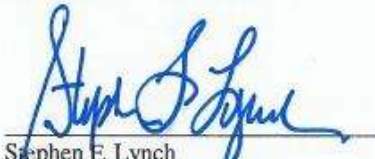

Lucille Roybal-Allard
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Bonnie Watson Coleman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Jan Schakowsky
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Alcee L. Hastings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Raúl M. Grijalva
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Stephen F. Lynch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Bill Foster
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Steve Cohen
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Marcy Kaptur
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Pramila Jayapal
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Debbie Dingell
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Ro Khanna
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Julia Brownley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Danny K. Davis
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


A. Donald McEachin
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

¹ Gazzar, Brenda. "Woodland Hills mail carrier died of overheating on 117-degree day, coroner's official says." *Los Angeles Daily News*. 24 Sep. 2018. <https://www.dailynews.com/2018/09/24/woodland-hills-mail-carrier-died-primarily-of-overheating-on-117-degree-day-coroners-official-says/>

² United States Postal Service Specification: Vehicle, Carrier Route, Right-Hand Drive. Draft. (U.S. Postal Service Engineering: Merrifield, CA), January, 2015. 1

³ United States Postal Service Specification: Vehicle, Carrier Route, Right-Hand Drive. Draft. (U.S. Postal Service Engineering: Merrifield, CA), January, 2015. 23