

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 18, 2024

Ms. Tammy Hull
Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 North Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Inspector General Hull,

We write to join Senators Smith and Klobuchar in a bicameral request for a full audit of the United States Postal Service (USPS) Minnesota-North Dakota District operations.

The USPS is a critical resource to our constituents, many of whom are frustrated with ongoing poor delivery service. Over the course of the last year and a half, we have heard from thousands of constituents who are disappointed with their mail service. Some have been without mail service for days at a time, while others report consistently lost mail or egregiously slow delivery for First Class Mail. We have even had reports of local branches turning off their phone lines.

Minnesotans and North Dakotans need to know their prescription medications, shipments from small businesses and rent checks will be delivered in time. Over the last year and a half, many were not. And due to a concerning lack of support from the USPS, frustrated constituents turned to our offices for assistance in receiving their deliveries.


Equally troubling are reports of poor worker treatment at a time when USPS is experiencing staffing shortages. Letter carriers and postal workers put in long hours to serve our constituents, and they deserve respect and a welcoming workplace for the important service they provide to our communities. As USPS Management reminds us often, short staffing has been a persistent issue in the MN-ND District. As of December 4, 2023, they admitted they were 81 employees short of their seasonal goal. These issues have been ongoing for a significant time, and we believe more oversight is urgently needed.

Recently, your office opened an audit of the St. Paul Processing and Distribution Center, including an evaluation of the Apple Valley and Eagan post offices and the New Brighton Carrier Annex. We also appreciate that you have expanded the scope to include the Bemidji and Blackduck facilities. Our constituents have expressed gratitude in knowing that these facilities will receive recommendations designed to help them better meet their service standards. However, we know that the issues at these facilities are not isolated, and are part of an even greater postal network in need of additional oversight and recommendations for improvement.

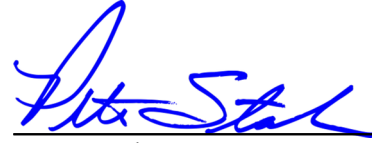
The MN-ND District has ranked among the ten worst-performing districts for all of FY23 in First Class Single Piece Mail for both the Two-Day and Three-to-Five Day service standards. To that end, we respectfully request that your office initiate an audit of the MN-ND District.

Thank you for your work to ensure that customers and postal workers alike can rely on the United States Postal Service today and well into the future. We look forward to assisting you in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress