

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

August 12, 2022

Tony Williams, District Manager, Minnesota/North Dakota District
United States Postal Service
100 S. 1ST Street
Minneapolis, MN 55401-9990

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing on behalf of the numerous constituents concerned about the conditions of the New Prague Post Office and the lack of engagement from U.S. Postal Service staff over the last year.

In March 2019, the New Prague Post Office was abruptly closed to deal with asbestos remediation. Operations were routed to Belle Plaine, approximately a 30 mile roundtrip for postal customers.¹ New Prague residents again had to deal with extended closures and delays at this location in the summer and fall of 2021 as the reopening was delayed due to structural issues at the building.² This time, operations were routed to Prior Lake, approximately a 36 mile roundtrip for postal customers.

The New Prague Post Office is one of 25,300 leased postal facilities in the United States. The lessor, American Postal Infrastructure, lists their principal executive office address in Foster City, CA.³ I'm concerned that such a private equity firm halfway across the country is focusing more on their returns for investors than the service for rural New Prague residents who rely on an efficient, open and functioning post office.

Constituents highlight the inaccessibility of the Post Office and safety concerns, including a lack of accessible parking, an inaccessible drop box and the location at a very busy intersection. They have also shared concerns about repeated asbestos remediation efforts that pose a health concern for customers and staff while also leaving residents without access to a nearby Post Office.

Hearing these concerns, my office reached out to local residents, elected officials and USPS staff to convene a meeting to hear from those affected and give USPS an opportunity to share updates and hear directly from those impacted. Upon invitation, USPS staff refused to attend the meeting and barred entry to the New Prague Post Office for myself and my meeting attendees.

I find myself with no other option than to write and request a formal response to the following questions:

¹ <https://www.newpraguetimes.com/new-prague-times-montgomery-messenger/content/operations-suspended-new-prague-post-office>

² <https://www.newpraguetimes.com/new-prague-times/content/reopening-post-office-be-decided>

³ <https://mblsportal.sos.state.mn.us/Business/SearchDetails?filingGuid=81a1b72a-ed91-e911-9175-00155d01b32c>

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AND RISK MANAGEMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT,
INVESTIGATIONS & REGULATIONS

1. What other environmental hazards remain in the post office and what is the timeline to finalize renovation and remediation efforts?
2. How can USPS ensure responsiveness to those they serve if they are unwilling to meet with a Member of Congress and local elected officials?
3. What, if anything, is USPS doing to engage with residents and address their concerns about extended closures, asbestos removal and other renovation projects?
4. What renovation projects are potentially being driven by private equity fund ownership of the New Prague Post Office facility to cut down on operating costs and services while driving returns for investors at the expense of Second District constituents?

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress