

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Tammy L. Whitcomb
Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn St.
Arlington, VA 22209-2020

Dear Inspector General Whitcomb:

I write regarding reports that mail sorting machines have been sold, dismantled, and destroyed in recent months at the direction of the Postal Service leadership.

According to recent news reports, USPS has ordered the removal of 671 mail sorting machines across the country. In my own congressional district, at the Goffs Falls Road facility in Manchester, New Hampshire, reports indicate that USPS decommissioned four mail sorting machines, including one that was sold for scrap parts to a business from Pennsylvania. The facility subsequently blocked access to this company following Postmaster General DeJoy's decision to pause USPS service changes ahead of the 2020 election.

The decommissioning, sale, and destruction of USPS mail sorting machines raises a series of troubling questions:

- 1) How many sorting machines in good working order have been sold or destroyed so far this year?
- 2) What are the likely operational consequences of the loss of these machines? How does the removal of mail sorting machines make USPS' infrastructure more vulnerable to mail delays in the event of any unexpected break-downs or required maintenance for mail sorting machines that remain operational?
- 3) Does USPS have plans to replace these machines and, if so, when does USPS anticipate that new machines will be brought online?

I request that your office investigate this matter and report your findings to Congress as soon as possible. While I am relieved that USPS is halting the operational changes that produced a needless slowdown in mail delivery in New Hampshire, I am deeply concerned on behalf of my constituents that the sale or destruction of sorting machines could have lasting consequences.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress