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BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST
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January 13, 2025

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy
USPS Headquarters
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20260-0010

RE: Restoration of Tampa Bay Area U.S. Postal Service Operations following Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy,

Thank you for your leadership and service to our nation. On behalf of my neighbors across the Tampa Bay region, I respectfully request your assistance in restoring U.S. Postal Service operations following Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton.

As you may know, Florida experienced three hurricanes during the months of August through October 2024. The Tampa Bay community was severely impacted by the storms and suffered widespread damage and destruction. My team and I have spent the past few months assessing the damage and speaking with neighbors and business owners directly about the tragic loss of homes, livelihoods and property. I am grateful for the federal resources and personnel that were surged into our region immediately following the disasters as well as the passage of the American Relief Act at the conclusion of the 118th Congress. The \$100 billion disaster package will deliver resources to help Tampa Bay neighbors get back on their feet and support the rebuilding of critical infrastructure across Tampa Bay. I am proud to have championed many of the disaster relief package's provisions and am committed to further recovery needs in my community, for individuals, businesses and services alike.

It is my understanding that seven post offices across the region are currently closed as a result of damage sustained by these storms. I would like to specifically bring attention to two post offices in Florida's 14th congressional district, which is the economic heart of Tampa Bay:

- Ruskin, 455 N. US Highway 41, 33570
- Town N Country, 7521 Paula Dr., Tampa, 33615

The latest USPS public announcement regarding business service disruptions was on November 4th, confirming that operations at the two locations listed above are temporarily suspended due to hurricane damage. The Ruskin post office has been closed since September 25, in anticipation and as a result of Hurricane Helene's impacts. The Town N Country office has been closed since October 8, due to Hurricane Milton. While I appreciate the temporary operations at alternative locations, the needs of my neighbors and business owners who heavily rely on the Ruskin and Town N Country post offices are not sufficiently being met. The prolonged shift in operations and lack of updates for reopening have resulted in general confusion and frustration, lengthier wait-times at the alternative locations, and accessibility issues for constituents who utilize and depend on essential postal services. It is with all of this information in mind that ***I strongly urge you to expedite the repair and reopening of the Ruskin and Town N Country post offices.***

Additionally, I would like to request additional information regarding the following:

- Please provide details on the damage sustained at the Ruskin and Town N Country post offices?
- What is the USPS approach to disaster relief, specifically for the restoration of impacted facilities?
- What is the latest status of restoration efforts at these two post offices?
 - Do you have a timeline estimate for the reopening of each post office?
- How are you communicating to customers about these locations' closures and temporary operation relocations?
 - Do you have an estimate of how many customers these closures are impacting?
- How are you dealing with cases of individuals who hold a P.O. box at one of the closed locations?
- Have you considered utilizing Postal Mobile Retail Units at the Ruskin/Town N Country post office locations?

I respectfully request that you scrutinize the USPS operations of Tampa Bay post offices, specifically the Ruskin and Town N Country facilities, impacted by hurricanes in recent months. Thank you for your attention and timely response. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my Legislative Assistant, Daniela Clark-Murrieta, at daniela.clark-murrieta@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3376.

Sincerely,

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

CC: Jacquelyn Villemaire, Tampa Postmaster
James Chambers, Acting Tampa Postmaster
Harry Cohen, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 1
Christine Miller, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 4
Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Southshore Chamber of Commerce