

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy

I write to you today concerning recent reports detailing the death of thousands of live animals while being shipped in parcels carried by the United States Postal Service (USPS). As we continue to work to bring long-term sustainability to the USPS, I urge you to reconsider its policies on shipping live animals.

The USPS is the only major postal carrier in the United States that permits the shipment of virtually any type of live animal. This practice is not only out of step with the rest of the industry but is also inconsistent with the humane treatment of these animals. Section 521 of USPS Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted and Perishable Mail freely admits that animals included in USPS parcels may be subject to extended times without access to food or water, and experience trauma due to impact, high and low temperatures and potential suffocation.

I urge you to institute a moratorium on the shipment of all live animals and initiate a thorough review of policies regarding policies regarding animals, including a comparative review of the policies of other parcel carriers and determining how or if animal transportation can be done safely. While recent events have shown that it cannot, I recognize that sound scientific and technical reviews must inform government policymaking. Following this review, the USPS should produce a report detailing its findings and conclusions, so that Congress can take appropriate action.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Harley Rouda

Member of Congress