

United States Senate

July 1, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster DeJoy,

I write today to bring your attention to an ongoing and pressing need in Winchester, Kansas, and ask that your staff at the United States Postal Service (USPS) take immediate action to resolve the issue at hand. For more than three years, the city has been without a post office since the closure of their facility.¹ The city has been diligent and expeditious in its efforts to meet the USPS's requirements for a new location. Unfortunately, the USPS has not acted in the same manner. USPS officials continue to drag their feet, refusing to deliver a finalized and signed lease to the city to allow for the opening of a new community post office. This is unacceptable, and I ask that USPS officials finalize the ongoing lease negotiations with the City of Winchester no later than July 15, 2024. If the lease negotiations are not finalized by then, I request a written response explaining why by July 15, 2024.

In January 2021, the city's post office was closed due to mold in the building.² At the request of the USPS, the City of Winchester purchased a new building and has been actively participating in lease negotiations with USPS officials. The city used its own funds to purchase a new facility and is now stuck footing the bill for a building that remains vacant. Meanwhile, its residents must travel to a neighboring community for postal services.

Access to a post office and daily mail service are vital for all Americans. Just like schools, grocery stores, and pharmacies, post offices are essential to the health and prosperity of our communities. It is imperative that the USPS finalize its lease with the City of Winchester and allow the community to reopen their post office.

Sincerely,



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator

¹ "Winchester, Kansas Post Office Temporarily Closed Due to Needed Repairs." *About.usps.com*, June 28, 2021. <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/local-releases/ks/2021/0628-winchester-po-temporarily-closed.htm>.

² Feuerborn, Mark, and Dan Garrett. "After Mold Closes Post Office, Kansas Town Forced to Drive Miles for Mail." *KSNT News*, last modified June 4, 2021. <https://www.ksnt.com/news/local-news/after-mold-closes-post-office-kansas-town-forced-to-drive-miles-for-mail/>.