

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

February 11, 2025

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy,

On January 31, 2025, the Postal Regulatory Commission issued an advisory opinion concluding that the Postal Service's proposed Regional Transportation Optimization (RTO) plan will degrade mail service in rural communities. To quote the report, the RTO plan will have "significant negative impacts on rural communities throughout the United States."¹ I urge you to halt implementation of this plan for the sake of rural Americans who depend on the mail and in accordance with the Post Office's mission to serve all Americans.

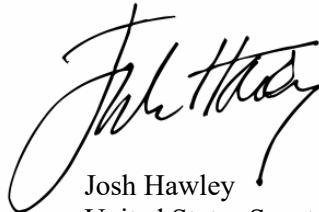
In its nearly 300-page opinion, the Regulatory Commission makes abundantly clear that the RTO's proposed changes are built on forecasts of cost savings and efficiency gains that simply cannot be credited. Worse, these proposed changes will leave America's rural communities—including many in my home state of Missouri—with further degraded mail service at a time when rural families already face significant challenges with their mail. Accordingly, the Regulatory Commission urged you to "reconsider whether the speculative, meager gains from this proposal outweigh the certain downgrade in service for a significant portion of the nation."²

When you testified before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in December, I asked you directly whether you would stop implementation of the RTO plan if the Regulatory Commission advised against the plan. You suggested that you would move forward regardless. Now that the facts are in, I am counting on you to reconsider. To be clear: Rural Missourians and every other American from a rural area deserve a postal system that delivers dependable, high-quality service.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Will you adopt any of the recommendations in the Regulatory Commission's opinion? If so, which ones?
2. How specifically will you fix the Postal Service's RTO plan to ensure that it does not have "significant negative impacts on rural communities throughout the United States?"
3. How do you plan to reassure Americans living in rural communities that the Postal Service will not proceed with ill-conceived changes that would harm rural mail delivery?

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
United States Senator

¹ <https://prc.arkcase.com/api/prc-dockets/filing/downloadFile?fileId=236113&inline=true>, p. 2
² <https://prc.arkcase.com/api/prc-dockets/filing/downloadFile?fileId=236113&inline=true>, p. 10