

June 4, 2025

The Honorable David Steiner  
United States Postmaster General  
U.S. Postal Service Headquarters  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as United States Postmaster General. The wealth of experience you bring to this role and the vital service USPS provides to our country, especially its rural and remote areas, is something I deeply value and support.

I am writing to express concern over persistent and serious delays in mail delivery to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), particularly for items routed through the San Francisco Processing and Distribution Center.

Residents and businesses in the CNMI routinely report delivery times of eight to ten weeks for standard mail and packages originating from the continental United States. Our understanding is that after processing in San Francisco, mail destined for the CNMI is routinely placed on maritime transport rather than airmail, resulting in excessive delays that significantly impair the delivery of prescription medications, legal notices, and essential business materials.

As you are aware, the Universal Service Obligation (USO) of the United States Postal Service commits to providing reliable, affordable, and timely mail delivery to all parts of the United States, including its territories. The current practices affecting the CNMI appear to be inconsistent with that obligation, raising concerns of inequitable treatment for residents of the insular areas.

Considering these concerns, I respectfully request responses to the following:

1. What is the current routing protocol for CNMI-bound mail, and what proportion of that mail is sent by sea vs. air?
2. What is the average delivery time for mail from the mainland U.S. to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as measured by USPS data?
3. Has USPS conducted any review of the service standards to U.S. territories, and are there plans to improve timeliness to the CNMI?
4. What would be required, operationally and financially, for USPS to restore or implement regular airmail transport for CNMI-bound mail?

I welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with your office to explore solutions that can ensure timely and equitable postal service for all Americans, regardless of geographic location.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS  
Member of Congress