

# State of Vermont

## Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

### Senate Resolution

By Senator Sears, Balint, Campion, and White,

**S.R. 16.** Senate resolution relating to urging the United States Postal Service to improve immediately the reliability and timeliness of its deliveries and requesting that Congress take any necessary legislative actions to effectuate this objective.

*Whereas*, even in the digital age, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) remains essential for Vermonters and Vermont's economy, and

*Whereas*, to improve USPS revenues, U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the Postal Board of Governors adopted a 10-year USPS transformation plan entitled "Delivering for America," which focuses more on profitability and less on timely service, and

*Whereas*, the 10-year plan includes an intentional slowing, from three to six days, of the USPS delivery standard for first-class mail, and

*Whereas*, this standard is resulting in deteriorating postal service nationwide, as seen in the fact that approximately 92 percent of first-class mail was delivered on time in the first quarter of 2020 while, during the same period in 2021, that figure fell to 78 percent, and

*Whereas*, many Vermont communities, including Barre, Bennington, Marshfield, Montpelier, Pownal, Shaftsbury, Stowe, and Williston, have experienced extensive USPS delivery delays, and

*Whereas*, the late receipt of credit card and utility bills may result in damage to a person's credit rating or the suspension of a basic utility service, and

*Whereas*, the tardy arrival of critical medications sent via USPS could be life threatening, and

*Whereas*, the Bennington Post Office informed an individual that the delivery of packages would be delayed until the post office had the time or staff, or both, to deliver them, and yet, a full workweek after a stated delivery date had passed, the parcels remained undelivered, and

*Whereas*, the shortcomings of the USPS are also impacting businesses such as Vermont News & Media, which publishes the *Bennington Banner*, the *Brattleboro Reformer*, and the *Manchester Journal*, and

*Whereas*, the company attributes the cancellation of over 200 newspaper subscriptions in Bennington and Windham Counties and an anticipated revenue loss of at least \$45,000 to the USPS, and this is merely one example of the negative financial effects of USPS delivery delays on Vermont corporations, and

*Whereas*, the USPS's new "Delivering for America" plan is causing significant harm to the health and economic livelihoods of individuals and corporations in Vermont and nationally and should be immediately reassessed, and

*Whereas*, constraining directives from USPS headquarters limit the excellent customer service that dedicated employees have shown in the past, and

*Whereas*, the combination of climatic, road, and terrain conditions in Vermont necessitates that USPS vehicles be equipped to meet our State's challenging and, at times, unique travel circumstances, and

*Whereas*, the postal problems Vermonters are encountering are due to flawed national USPS policies and are not the fault of the hard-working USPS employees in Vermont, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate:***

That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges the U.S. Postal Service to reassess its 10-year transformation plan with the goal of immediately restoring the reliability and timeliness of mail delivery to the standard that existed prior to the plan's implementation, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges USPS administrators to allow local USPS employees more autonomy in the provision of excellent customer service to local patrons, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges USPS to purchase vehicles that are equipped to meet our State's challenging and, at times, unique travel conditions, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, the Postal Board of Governors, the Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform's Subcommittee on Government Operations, the U.S. House and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED TO:

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John H. Bloomer, Jr.  
Secretary of the Senate

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_