

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred Senate
3 Resolution S.R.16 entitled “Senate resolution urging the United States Postal
4 Service to improve immediately the reliability and timeliness of its deliveries
5 and requesting that Congress take any necessary legislative actions to
6 effectuate this objective,” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
7 and recommends that the resolution be amended by striking out all after the
8 title and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 *Whereas*, the USPS’s new “Delivering for America” plan is causing
2 significant harm to the health and economic livelihoods of individuals and
3 corporations in Vermont and nationally and should be immediately reassessed,
4 and

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

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

11 ***Resolved by the Senate:***

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

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

19 ***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of
20 this resolution to U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, the Postal Board of
21 Governors, the Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform’s

1 Subcommittee on Government Operations, the U.S. House and Senate
2 Majority and Minority Leaders, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9 (Committee vote: _____)

10

11

Senator _____

12

FOR THE COMMITTEE