

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 combination of climatic, road, and terrain conditions in  
9        Vermont necessitates that USPS vehicles be equipped to meet our State’s  
10        challenging and, at times, unique travel circumstances, and

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

14        ***Resolved by the Senate:***

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

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

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

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

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE