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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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Andrew Bailey
Co-Deputy Director of the FBI
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20535

Dear Co-Deputy Director Bailey,

I write to inform you of information my office has received from law enforcement regarding potential federal criminal activity at the United States Postal Service (USPS) St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center. Given the gravity of this information, I request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigate, as appropriate, these allegations involving both mail theft and check fraud affecting residents in and around St. Louis, Missouri.

In response to my office's oversight of delinquent USPS operations in the greater St. Louis region, my office received the attached letter from the Madison County Sheriff's Office in Illinois on May 7, 2026. The Sheriff's Office asserts there is "a systematic pattern of mail theft and check washing tied to USPS processing activity in St. Louis, Missouri." According to the Sheriff's Office, this involves an "ongoing scheme" in which personal checks are allegedly being stolen from the mail, chemically altered to change the payee and dollar amount, and then cashed or deposited in larger amounts. The Sheriff's Office states that they alone have identified more than \$45,000 in losses connected to this scheme and believes the true scope may be larger than what has been reported. Given the USPS St. Louis Processing and Distribution Center handles mail destined throughout Missouri and the Midwest, I have a reasonable suspicion that my constituents may be affected by this alleged ongoing criminal activity.

The Sheriff's Office also raises serious concerns about the ability of local law enforcement to investigate these crimes. Specifically, the Sheriff's Office states that its efforts have been "significantly hindered" by a lack of cooperation from USPS personnel and management, including unresponsiveness or refusal to provide meaningful assistance despite formal requests for surveillance access, operational information, and coordination with investigators.

These allegations are deeply concerning on their own. They also come against the backdrop of persistent mail service and mail security concerns across the St. Louis region. My office has

repeatedly raised concerns with USPS regarding delayed mail, operational failures, and the erosion of public confidence in postal service reliability in the region. Separately, recent local reporting described a large pile of undelivered mail found dumped in north St. Louis, including letters, bills, and tax documents.¹ While it is unclear whether this reported incident is directly connected to the Madison County Sheriff's investigation, it underscores the severe lack of confidence in USPS management in our community.

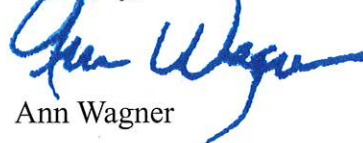
Given the potential federal jurisdiction, including possible mail theft, bank fraud, identity theft, interstate criminal activity, and interference with the security of the U.S. mail, I respectfully request that the FBI review this matter and determine whether a federal investigation is warranted. I also ask that the FBI coordinate, as appropriate, with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the USPS Office of Inspector General, the Madison County Sheriff's Office, and any other relevant state and local law enforcement agencies.

The U.S. mail remains essential for seniors, families, small businesses, veterans, farmers, and residents who rely on it for checks, bills, prescriptions, tax documents, and other sensitive information. When mail is stolen, dumped, altered, or mishandled, the consequences are not merely administrative. They can include financial loss, damaged credit, missed payments, identity theft, and a serious loss of confidence in basic public services.

I appreciate the FBI's prompt attention to this matter and support an investigation into these allegations.

Should you or your team need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,



Ann Wagner

Member of Congress

CC:

USPS Postmaster General Steiner

USPS Inspector General Tammy Hull

¹ Mira, Chad. April 29, 2026. "Missing mail found dumped in north St. Louis." *Fox2Now*.
<https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/missing-mail-found-dumped-in-north-st-louis/>