

BRAD R. WENSTRUP  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT OHIO

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

PERMANENT SELECT  
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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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October 17, 2022

Michael Gordon, Midwestern Regional Director  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 10804  
Washington, DC 20260-3500

Dear Director Gordon:

On June 16, 2022, the United States Post Office in Lynchburg, Ohio, was devastated by a fire and is now indefinitely closed for repair. This has left local residents without service for over 4 months and counting.

The USPS's temporary remedy is to currently direct residents to drive to Hillsboro, Ohio, to pick up their mail. This has been of significant inconvenience for constituents of mine as they have to drive in excess of 20 miles to retrieve their mail. This situation is particularly difficult for elderly residents and those who do not drive or otherwise do not have access to transportation. As there is no local mail delivery in Lynchburg, this is their only option to receive mail and important packages, including medications. Are the Postal Service capabilities lacking to provide appropriate mail service after a devastating event? If so, why?

Over the last few months, my office has been working with our USPS liaisons Charlotte Morrow and Thomas Arsenault, to expedite a resolution to this issue. We were initially informed that USPS had 90 days to come up with an alternative Postal Facility in instances such as this. We are now past this timeline, and while the landlord is planning to rebuild, my office has been informed that it could be another 3 to 4 months before a temporary modular unit can be placed in Lynchburg to restore community mail service.

I have been in direct contact with Lynchburg Mayor Jamie Burton and dozens of residents who have contacted my office to voice their concern. My constituents are frustrated and angry at the lack of progress to find a temporary solution to have reliable mail access until the post office can be rebuilt.

I urge you to revisit the current timeline and work to provide adequate accommodations for the local residents impacted. As we approach the winter months, citizen safety is of paramount concern given the required drive for some constituents to retrieve their mail. The Lynchburg community is a rural community where roads can be especially hazardous during inclement winter weather. This will be especially challenging for senior citizens, many who depend on USPS for delivery of their life-saving medications.

I urge the Postal Service to act quickly to remedy this matter. Myself and my staff are accessible to discuss this matter further at any point, and we look forward to hearing USPS's plan to restore services in Lynchburg in the coming weeks. Please forward any questions or updates to my District Director, Alex Scharfetter at my Cincinnati district office at (513) 474-7777 or via email [alex.scharfetter@mail.house.gov](mailto:alex.scharfetter@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad R. Wenstrup". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Brad R. Wenstrup  
U.S. Representative

BRW/ac