

**SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**  
SECOND DISTRICT, GEORGIA

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**SUBCOMMITTEES:**

**CHAIRMAN**

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD  
AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

**VICE CHAIR**

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**

2407 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1002  
PHONE: (202) 225-3631  
FAX: (202) 225-2203



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1002**

**DISTRICT OFFICES:**

**ALBANY**

323 PINE AVENUE, SUITE 400  
ALBANY, GA 31701  
PHONE: (229) 439-8067  
FAX: (229) 436-2099

**COLUMBUS**

18 NINTH STREET, SUITE 201  
COLUMBUS, GA 31901  
PHONE: (706) 320-9477  
FAX: (706) 320-9479

**MACON**

300 MULBERRY STREET, SUITE 502  
MACON, GA 31201  
PHONE: (478) 803-2631  
FAX: (478) 803-2637

August 15, 2020

The Honorable Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L' Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy,

It has come to my attention that the United States Postal Service (USPS) has eliminated Blue Collection Boxes in a number of cities across the nation, and according to the USPS website, may also be inaccurately listing collection box locations in many other cities. It has already been confirmed Blue Collection Boxes were removed in Oregon, Ohio, and possibly several other states. While I understand you have reversed this policy as of yesterday, I am still troubled.

In my home state of Georgia, there are large sections in multiple cities, such as Atlanta and Albany, that show no Blue Collection Boxes according to the USPS website. Unfortunately, we are not an outlier—this appears in many other states. Based on racial demographic maps using U.S. Census data, it appears these vacant areas are often in predominantly African American neighborhoods. This is an extremely troubling finding, considering the historical suppression of African American voters.

I have the following questions that I would like answered:

- When did you begin removing boxes?
- How many did you remove?
- What was the criteria for removing them?
- In 2015, your office stated there were 153,999 Blue Collection Boxes. How many Blue Collection Boxes are there currently?
- Will you be putting the removed boxes back in their original locations?
- Were boxes removed from these predominantly African American neighborhoods recently?
- If not, will you be putting new boxes in these neighborhoods to address the racial disparity ahead of the presidential election occurring in 80 days?

The removal of Blue Collection Boxes and the potentially inaccurate information on the USPS website sows confusion and distrust in the Postal Service and its mission, which is ingrained in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. It is imperative that USPS continues to provide quality

mail pick-up and delivery at a low cost for Americans regardless of their address. In many rural areas, USPS is the only mail delivery service available, as rural delivery is not cost-effective for private companies.

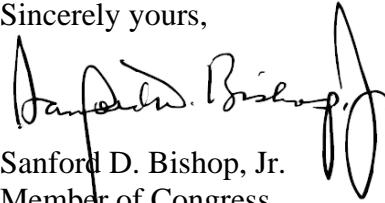
Particularly in the time of COVID-19, the Blue Collection Boxes are a safe, socially distanced way for Americans to use the Postal Service, which is funded by their taxes. With Election Day approaching and millions of Americans likely to vote by mail, the safest 24/7 locations to mail in ballots are seemingly vanishing without any sort of warning or explanation. My concern is doubled that this may be suppressing the votes of minorities, who historically have been discriminated against when exercising the right to vote.

My concerns have only increased in light of the President's unfounded comments about distrusting the Post Office. Most recently, on August 12, 2020, the President stated he declined to approve \$25 billion in emergency coronavirus funding for the Postal Service, because "if we don't make a deal, that means they don't get the money. That means they can't have universal mail-in voting, they just can't have it."

Given the sensitivity of this matter, I would appreciate a timely response to my concerns.

With warmest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Senior Member of House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government

CC: Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chairman Mike Quigley