

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

May 24, 2023

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

Dear Postmaster DeJoy:

As the United States Postal Service (USPS) prepares to roll out the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV), we ask that you prioritize deliveries of these new trucks to letter carriers in South and Central Texas. Given the extreme heat that our communities regularly experience, we feel strongly that our region should be among the first in the nation to receive these new, air-conditioned vehicles.

The Grumman Long Life Vehicle (LLV) entered service in 1987. Though its anticipated lifespan was 24 years at the time of production, thousands of LLVs are still in service in South and Central Texas. NGDVs feature numerous upgrades over LLVs, including air bags, additional cargo space, backup cameras, and improved range. While these features will improve service and safety across the country, it is letter carriers who work in our country's hottest climates that will benefit most from the NGDV's air-conditioned cabin.

This past summer was one of the hottest on record in South and Central Texas. San Antonio, where hundreds of letter carriers still drive decades-old delivery trucks, saw 58 100-degree days in 2022. Our region is hot—and average temperatures are rising every year. A recent study conducted by Texas A&M University predicts that the average number of 100-degree days in the region will double by 2036.¹

We understand that USPS initially expected to begin receiving NGDVs in October 2023. Due to manufacturing delays, new vehicles are now expected to begin arriving in June 2024.² While these delays are unfortunate, we hope that USPS will use this additional time to develop a deployment strategy that reflects the concerns outlined above.

¹ <https://climatexas.tamu.edu/files/ClimateReport-1900to2036-2021Update>

² <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-postal-service-next-generation-delivery-vehicles-delayed-mid-2024-2023-05-02/>

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress