

## **American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO**

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

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Omar M. Gonzalez Coordinator, Western Region The Honorable Joseph Biden 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20500

October 25, 2022

Dear President Biden,

We write to urge you to nominate Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence to serve on the United States Postal Board of Governors when the term of Donald Moak expires on December 8, 2022.

Congresswoman Lawrence understands the Post Office in a way few can. Before joining Congress, she served as a postal employee for over 30 years, as a letter carrier, a clerk, a supervisor, and a manager. After leaving the Postal Service, she was elected mayor of Southfield, Michigan, where she worked with the community to bolster the quality of the mail service. Since she was elected to serve in Congress, she secured positions on the committees with jurisdiction over the Postal Service, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government where she skillfully defended the public Postal Service from privatization.

Congresswoman Lawrence is the only member of Congress to have been a card-carrying member of the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers. She understands the commitment and dedication each postal worker provides to the nation.

By nominating Congresswoman Lawrence, the Biden Administration has a historic opportunity to provide more equitable representation to USPS' workforce. Despite African Americans making up nearly 30% of the USPS workforce in 2021, the USPS Board of Governors has not had a woman of color serve on its board in over 15 years. It is clear that women of color remain underrepresented. As USPS implements a massive network reorganization, we urge you to nominate Congresswoman Lawrence so that the makeup of USPS' board includes diverse voices that better represent USPS' workforce and customer base. Nominating Congresswoman Lawrence would also ensure that any reforms from the Postmaster would be vetted by an independent voice, and critically reviewed to ensure that any proposals would not adversely affect historically-underrepresented groups.

Never before has a candidate for the Board possessed such a deep understanding of the workers as well as the unique operational challenges that face the Postal Service. We urge you to nominate Congresswoman Lawrence to serve on the United States Postal Board of Governors.

Sincerely,

Mark Dimondstein

**APWU National President** 

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CC: Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Gary Peters, and Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence