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

October 5, 2012

Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-3100

Dear Mr. Donahoe:

I appreciate that, as Postmaster General, you are faced with many pressing concerns regarding the United States Postal Service (USPS). However, one of the highest priorities of your agency is to help protect the integrity of the electoral process.

My office has received reports that Voter Registration Cards (VRCs) for two separate zip codes have been lost or misplaced. These reports have been verified by Fort Bend County Election Administration. The disappearance of VRCs in zip codes 77406 and 77494 must be investigated. Maintaining election integrity and ensuring that every American citizen can exercise the right to vote, without fear of fraud, must be a top priority for all government officials. On behalf of the voters in the district that I represent, I respectfully request immediate action on this issue.

On March 30 and April 5, 2012, between the hours of 8 PM and 9 PM, approximately 280,000 VRCs were transported via postal truck from the Houston Post Office located at 401 Franklin Street to the North Houston Post Office located at 4600 Aldine Bender Road. These trays arrived at the end of the afternoon shift in order to be processed for delivery by the night shift.

As of today, 22,000 cards remain unaccounted for, and this mistake presents an incredible opportunity for voter fraud. While these VRCs have been re-issued, there is nothing preventing the possibility that unscrupulous individuals can walk into a polling location and voting with one of these "lost" cards. This occurrence would not only allow someone voting who may be otherwise ineligible to vote, but also deprive a citizen of their sacred right to cast their vote in an election. This possibility is reprehensible.

The U.S. Postal Service's ineptitude in this situation, both in losing the VRCs and in failing to find those responsible, is frankly unacceptable. The USPS must be vigilant against mail theft and must help to ensure that those affected by this theft do not lose their constitutional right to vote.

I strongly urge you to investigate this situation immediately, and I look forward to receiving your findings and any USPS policy changes to ensure that this never happens again.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Olson".

Pete Olson
Member of Congress