

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Megan J. Brennan  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan:

We are writing to express our very serious concerns regarding employee safety at the U.S. Postal Service Michigan Metroplex Processing and Distribution Center in Pontiac, Michigan.

A recent United States Postal Service Office of the Inspector General report revealed that the methane detector in the Michigan Metroplex has been malfunctioning since March 2015. As you know, this facility is built on a brownfield site previously home to a foundry, and special precautions were taken during construction to address potential safety concerns. A functioning methane detector is especially important at this location and the detector is part of a larger system that protects workers from dangerously high levels of methane gas. It is completely unacceptable that the USPS has known about the malfunctioning methane detector for several months, yet it still isn't fixed.

In response to the report, we understand the Postal Service is working to evaluate and repair the existing system by May 2016. We urge you to immediately repair the detector and conduct weekly air quality tests in the interim. The Postal Service has also agreed to develop a long-term strategy for maintaining a functioning detection system by October 2016. We ask the Postal Service to expedite the completion of this process.

As you know, inspectors discovered the malfunctioning methane detector during a larger, still ongoing, review of employee safety. This review is taking place because of concerns over the deaths of five employees during a fourteen month period. While the deaths of these employees did not take place on site, we believe that all employees should have the peace of mind of knowing that their work environment is safe. Therefore, we are asking the Postal Service and Office of the Inspector General to work expeditiously to complete the safety review, publicly release the results and notify employees, and immediately correct any safety concerns identified during this process.

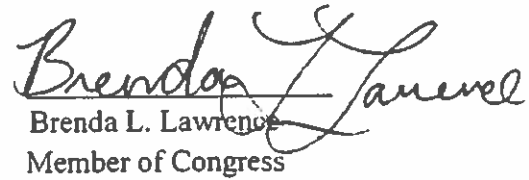
Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter and your efforts to ensure the safety of employees at the Michigan Metroplex Processing and Distribution Center.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

cc: Tammy Whitcomb, Acting Inspector General, United States Postal Service