



Jena M. Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State

September 17, 2019

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express deep concern over your Administration's anticipated withdrawal from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on October 17th. For nearly 150 years, the UPU has guaranteed that all mail categories are treated equally, regardless of country of origin. For U.S. citizens living abroad, including members of our armed forces, leaving the UPU will mean they can no longer rely on the mail service to send or receive their mailed ballots.

Withdrawing from the UPU will likely disenfranchise military and overseas voters from all 50 states, D.C., and the five territories for the 2019 and 2020 elections. Nationally, there are 1.3 million active military personnel and 700,000 spouses, as well as 3 million voting age citizens living abroad. While election officials will make every attempt to prevent disruption or confusion, it may be difficult for many military and overseas citizens to vote if the United States leaves the UPU.

There are 195 countries in the United Nations, 192 of which are UPU members. We understand that the State Department and U.S. Postal Service are negotiating bilateral agreements to facilitate mail service on a country-by-country basis. However, absent agreements with every country, military and overseas voters will be affected – either because they did not receive a ballot or had no way to return that ballot.

I call on the Administration to remain in the UPU and not disrupt the ability for military and overseas voters to cast their ballots while serving our nation or living abroad.

Sincerely,

Jena M. Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State

**Cc: The Honorable Michael Bennet, United States Senator
The Honorable Cory Gardner, United States Senator
The Honorable Diana DeGette, United States Representative
The Honorable Joe Neguse, United States Representative
The Honorable Scott Tipton, United States Representative
The Honorable Ken Buck, United States Representative
The Honorable Doug Lamborn, United States Representative
The Honorable Jason Crow, United States Representative
The Honorable Ed Perlmutter, United States Representative**