

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

Thank you for your efforts to bring to light the once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize our next generation of U.S. Postal Service vehicles. It is urgent that these vehicles be both electrified to the fullest extent AND built to last with high-quality union labor.

I am writing to bring your attention to additional information concerning Oshkosh Corp. – parent company of Oshkosh Defense – and details relating to its contract to produce these new U.S. Postal Service vehicles.

As you already know, Oshkosh Defense has announced its plans to move its production of the vehicles from Wisconsin to South Carolina in an apparent bid to avoid a unionized workforce at the same time it seeks to avoid new emissions standards.

I have been a vocal advocate for the union workers in Wisconsin, as well as for requiring that the new Postal vehicles be electric, a move that would remove hundreds of tons of pollutants from the air and reduce the United States's dangerous reliance on fossil fuels.

I've also been a critic of the unmitigated disaster that is the Foxconn development, a \$4.5 billion gift to a foreign corporation that relied on hundreds of millions of dollars in guarantees and infrastructure giveaways from state and local governments. Foxconn has since reneged on almost every element of the project, and thus, the 3,000-acre parcel used as a photo op for then-Gov. Scott Walker, then-Speaker Paul Ryan and then-President Donald Trump remains largely vacant.

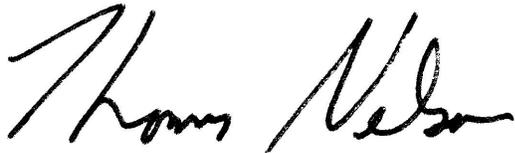
It has [just been reported](#) that Oshkosh Defense approached Foxconn about using the failed site for production of the new Postal vehicles and that they were rebuffed. Furthermore, it was reported that Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) was aware of these efforts, but apparently did nothing to keep the jobs in Wisconsin, keep the workforce unionized or keep the vehicles electric.

I thank the Committee for its efforts to determine the facts of this deal and the role played by the Postal Service.

I ask that the committee expand its inquiry to include Foxconn and its negotiations with Oshkosh Defense and its parent company; Foxconn's failure to accommodate this move; and any use of federal funds in furtherance of a deal that takes away union jobs from Wisconsin and fails to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Likewise, I ask that the committee use its oversight powers to expand the public's knowledge about the Foxconn role in the deal and why it could not be accommodated.

At a time when the United States is struggling to make investments in our workforce and in developing a coordinated national industrial plan that grows our economy while tackling the existential issue of global climate change, understanding Foxconn's and Oshkosh Defense's treatment of public resources is vital for an informed public.

Thank you for your work. Please feel free to contact me if you believe I may be of any assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Nelson
Outagamie County Executive

Cc: The Honorable James R. Comer, Ranking Member