

March 30, 2022

Senator Gary Peters  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rob Portman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Peters and Senator Portman:

Thank you for your efforts to oversee the U.S. Postal Service and ensure its mission is consistent with the security of the United States. I applaud your recent landmark passage of the Postal Service Reform Act and want to make sure the U.S. Postal Service continues to provide its valued service to so many Americans.

As you know, Oshkosh Corp. – parent company of Oshkosh Defense – has been awarded the contract to manufacture the next generation of 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. 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.

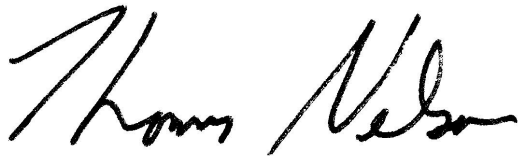
It has [just been reported](#) that Oshkosh Defense approached Foxconn about using the failed site for production of the new Postal vehicles and that they were rebuffed. Furthermore, it was

reported that one of the members of your Committee, 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 am requesting that the Committee join the House Committee on Oversight and Reform in investigating whether the decision to build the next generation Postal vehicles in a different location was due to avoiding union labor. I ask that the committee use its oversight powers to expand the public's knowledge about Foxconn's 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, appearing to read "Tom Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Nelson" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Nelson  
Outagamie County Executive