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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

August 29, 2016

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The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Gov. Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Gov. Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings:

I write with respect to a letter I sent your committee dated August 3, 2015, and once again urge you to consider H.R. 657, a bill that would require the United States Postal Service to create a single, unique ZIP code for Glendale in Queens, New York.

Glendale currently shares a ZIP code with the adjacent neighborhood of Ridgewood, New York. Glendale has faced challenges resulting from the shared ZIP code. The ZIP code for Glendale and Ridgewood, 11385, was created in 1979 following their separation from a Brooklyn ZIP code. This was made possible by former Representative Geraldine Ferrero. Since the 1990's, the residents of Glendale have sought to obtain a ZIP code for their community. This has been an ongoing challenge for Members of Congress who previously represented the area and supported these efforts. There is a precedent for providing new ZIP codes for communities; the last time there was major postal legislation – in 2006 through the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act – four unique ZIP codes were established for neighborhoods in other parts of the country.

A new ZIP code for Glendale would provide faster mail service to the community. Despite having its own post office, residents report slow mail service and problems with receiving mail. Glendale is not always a recognized neighborhood within the ZIP code, as Ridgewood is the primary neighborhood listed. This results in mail that often gets sent first to Ridgewood, delaying the mail or even causing it to be returned to sender.

The lack of a unique ZIP code for Glendale also negatively impacts the ability of residents to access services. Service providers, such as providers of utilities and repairs, have trouble finding Glendale homes because Glendale is often not recognized as a neighborhood in the ZIP code. Glendale does not show up on GPS devices, and this causes confusion about where addresses in this neighborhood are located.

Glendale residents deserve a solution to the mail and service-related problems they face. These problems can be fixed by including H.R. 657 in any large legislative package that may move through your committee prior to the end of this Congress, and I respectfully request that you consider this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'g Meng', is written over a horizontal line.

Grace Meng
Member of Congress