

U.S. Representative Zoe Lofgren  
Chairperson  
House Administration Committee  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Representative Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member  
House Administration Committee  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2022

Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis:

As the 2022 mid-term election is fast approaching, I'm writing to alert you to concerns expressed to me by member companies of PRINTING United Alliance regarding supply chain snarls that could hinder voter access to paper ballots this November.

The use of individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots is widely accepted as the best manner in which to ensure the public's peace of mind that their votes will be securely cast and accurately counted. Paper ballots are also the best way to ensure proper verification in the case of recounts. These key attributes of paper – security and reliability – have been long-touted by our industry, and it is appropriate that this Committee be aware of any potential shortages that may limit the number of ballots produced in 2022.

Ballot and election-related printing represent some of the most complex projects in the graphic communications industry. Accuracy, efficiency and integrity are vital to the process. Specific paper is required both for ballots and for envelopes approved to use in vote by mail states. Anecdotal evidence suggests printing companies barely found enough paper in the marketplace to produce ballots for early state primary elections and are growing increasingly worried that supply will not be ample for the fall work period.

Please keep in mind, too, that election printing extends beyond ballots to voter guides, sample ballots, instructional signage, and related material. This type of printing may also be limited given the ongoing challenges paper purchasers are experiencing as part of the overall global supply chain headache.

While I realize your Committee cannot engage in securing private market paper supply, I respectfully ask that you highlight this early warning with the appropriate officials. I also ask that you use your Congressional hearing authority to examine the need for adequate paper supply to ensure the fall election can be conducted fairly and securely as it relates to ballot access.

Thank you for your attention to this concern. PRINTING United Alliance and its member companies would be pleased to discuss this topic further with Congress, and we welcome you both to tour a manufacturing facility specializing in ballot and election-services printing to see first-hand the essential role our industry plays in the electoral process.

Sincerely,



Ford Bowers  
CEO