

Subject: Mail to the Capitol

Dear Legislators and Legislative Staff,

I write to respectfully request your assistance when mailing certain items to the Capitol.

As you may be aware, LAA mailroom staff sort all incoming mail for the Capitol Complex and x-ray all packages and large envelopes for suspicious items as a safety precaution. Recently, a grenade and rifle round were detected in an x-rayed package sent to a legislative staff. Fortunately, Chief of Security Vinson was present and is an experienced bomb technician; he was able to determine that there was little risk due to there being no indication of a detonating mechanism, relocate the package and open it to confirm that the items were decommissioned and converted into a paperweight and key chain.

Had Chief Vinson not been onsite, the protocol would have been to notify the Juneau Police Department for appropriate action, likely resulting in evacuation of the Capitol and possibly surrounding buildings, all of which require additional resources by the mailroom, security, and local and state law enforcement, as well as the potential to cause unnecessary panic for building occupants.

While the items received are legal and non-lethal, requesting such items be sent to the Capitol could have serious unintended consequences. As such, please use your personal mailing address for questionable items that might cause concern if scanned by an x-ray device.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important safety matter.