



Keva Richardson, Co-Chair  
Post Office Preservation Committee  
National Association of Postmasters of the United States  
2372 Waubonsie Avenue  
Thurman, IA 51654

February 11, 2011

Honorable Ruth Goldway  
Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Goldway:

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has commenced an aggressive nationwide effort to close rural and small town post office. In the view of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States' Committee on Post Office Preservation, USPS efforts may violate §101(b) of Title 39, United States Code. In addition, the Postal Service's plan jeopardizes every small and rural Post Office in the nation. Therefore, as a rural postal customer and as chairman of the Post Office Protection Committee, I respectfully request that the Postal Regulatory Commission review the USPS' plans to determine if the Postal Service's efforts are in statutory "noncompliance"; if so, to direct the Postal Service to cease and desist from such unlawful actions and impose appropriate sanctions.

In January, the Postal Service announced an initiative to close more than 2,000 "unprofitable" Post Offices around the nation. Local Post Office-closing decision-makers have confirmed the underlying reasoning for the closures. A February 5, 2011, *Washington Post* article quoted a Virginia manager of postal operations as stating: "It's all about the bottom line, Voorhees [manager of postal operations] said." Moreover, at infrequently-held community meetings, the Postal Service strives to defend its discriminatory decision to close a rural or small town Post Office by claiming that the Post Office of the adversely-impacted community is simply not making enough money.

As the Commission knows, §101(b) specifically prohibits the closing or consolidation of a Post Office "solely for operating at a deficit." Moreover, §101(b) provides that small communities and rural America be provided with "a maximum degree of effective and regular mail service to small towns, communities and rural areas where post offices are not self-sustaining."

Madame Chair, I believe that Post Offices provide a fundamental social benefit, particularly to communities not enveloped by urbanization or suburbanization. Regrettably, Postal executives are dismissive of the tremendous asset they have in rural and small town Post Offices, and trivialize the distance between Post Offices in those areas and how that distance impacts rural postal customers. Furthermore, Postal executives choose to ignore the strong the citizen mailers' support of Post Offices, evidenced by a less-than-year-old Gallup Poll, which found that 86 percent of Americans oppose Post Office closures. Consequently, please consider opening a docket on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Keva Richardson'.

Keva Richardson  
Co-Chair, Post Office Preservation Committee