

A2012-45

Judith A. Schimpf
204 Church Street
PO Box 73
Orchard, Iowa 50460

October 18, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to appeal the final determination to close the Orchard Post Office which serves me and this small town and the community of farmers around it. I am the editor of a small not-for-profit newsletter, and I rely on the Orchard Post Office for mailing 130 newsletters each month. I buy all my stamps from this post office. It would be a great inconvenience to me if this post office would be closed.

I noticed a few errors in the Final Determination to Close Letter that was displayed at the Orchard Post Office. I would like to point those out. Under the section of the publication, entitled **EFFECT ON COMMUNITY**, it was stated, "Businesses and organizations include: First United Congregational Church of Christ, Mehmen Lawn Care, Halbach Construction, Still Water Greenhouse, Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Solid Waste Management, Cedar River Taxidermy..." The name of the church is incorrect. It is The First Congregational Church of Orchard, UCC. Two other businesses were not mentioned. They are the Tim Betts Trucking Co. and a Day Care Service. And, yes, there are quite a few retirees and many commuters, but there are eight families who have between 2-4 school age children. Orchard is a safe place to raise children.

I disagree with the Final Determination to Close Letter on the section entitled "SOME ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSAL ARE:" In the No. 1 reason, it was stated "the rural and contact carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience." What a lame reason. The people of this community love to go to the Orchard Post Office. It gives them a chance to visit with neighbors in town and out and to talk to a very nice human postal person when ordering stamps, sending packages, or just receiving a nice "Hello, how are you?" No. 2 stated, "Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail," I think that needs some explanation. No. 3 stated "Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and saving for customers." Well, if the Postal Service would cut hours for all post offices, it would be a great savings, a savings in keeping all post offices. Closing small post offices is not the answer. Why do big businesses and government always hurt the little people? Cut at the top once in awhile. No. 4 stated, "CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers." Well, I like picking up my package at the post office. It is safe and dry and out of the bad weather in the winter. NO. 5 stated, "Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees." It was and is a personal choice to have a PO Box. Now the USPS wants to take that choice away from people who have PO Boxes at the Orchard Post Office. No. 6 stated, "Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail." That is really laughable. What a weak advantage. Most people in this town love to walk to the post office for the exercise. It is not a hardship. I would suggest the US Postal Service look again at their so-called advantages for closing this Orchard Post Office. The small town post office is a very strong resource in America. Do not destroy it!

Sincerely yours,


Judith A. Schimpf

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Cc:

Danny Hobbs, Mayor of Lohrville, Iowa, Director of Iowans for Post Office Services

Governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad

Senator Charles E. Grassley

Senator Tom Harkin

U.S. Representative Tom Latham