

A 2012-126

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2012 APR -5 P 2:55

March 28, 2012

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission
Public Affairs and Government Relations
901 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268

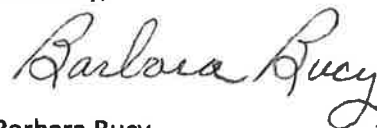
Dear Sir:

I would like to appeal the decision by the United States Postal Service to suspend service at the Post Office in Kirksey, Kentucky. Kirksey is a small, rural community in far Western Kentucky. Members of our community feel that rural Americans deserve, by law, to receive postal services that are affordable and convenient. To suspend the Postal services in our community will deny many of our citizens the most basic of government services.

Attached, please find a listing of our concerns about various ways this decision will have a negative impact on our senior citizens, young families and individuals with disabilities.

I would appreciate your consideration of this impact to rural America.

Sincerely,



Barbara Bucy

(270)293-4986
bbucy@wk.net

Received

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Office of PAGR

Please review these points as you consider this decision:

While the Postal Service is citing their very large financial budget deficits as a reason for closing small rural post offices, the COMBINED operational costs of the 10,000 smallest post offices in the nation makes up less than 1% of the Postal Services' overall budget. If the Postal Service closes a large number of offices . . . 10,000, 20,000, 30,000 . . . , they will probably receive a huge boost in the media but the savings will, in truth, be insignificant. It will, however, cause a great deal of harm to small, rural communities while creating a large amount of ill will with rural customers who are, for the most part, loyal to their local post offices. No doubt, the Postal Service must consider cost-cutting measures but it is difficult to understand how closing retail units is the answer, especially since they are reasonably inexpensive to operate.

If the Kirksey office is closed(which is the next logical conclusion following this suspension), we have residents . . . some elderly . . . who will have to travel over 35 miles round-trip to retrieve large parcels, hold mail or accountable mail at the Murray KY Post Office. This added expense will be a definite hardship on our friends and neighbors living on fixed incomes. And, yes, many postal services can be accessed through the rural carrier, but sometimes, a trip to the Post Office is necessary. Many of our residents feel that the Murray KY Post Office is already an over-burdened office citing lack of convenient parking, traffic congestion and long customer lines. We have elderly citizens and citizens with disabilities who simply cannot have their needs met at this office.

Lack of revenue and low mail volume has been suggested as a possible reason for closing this office. However, operational decisions made by postal officials over the three years has sabotaged sales and volume at the Kirksey office. Relocating the rural route and slashing operational hours has cost the Kirksey office mail volume and retail sales. The Kirksey Post Office was, in fact, set up to fail.

Unavailable employees to man this office has been given as the reason for the Emergency Closure. Is it possible that the Postal Services' extended hiring freeze has back-fired? Why can't excess employees be moved into a position to keep this office open. Even with the disadvantages mentioned above, sales at the Kirksey office have not been insignificant.

Believe it or not, there are still people who pay their monthly bills with postal money orders. These individuals depend on safe and available access to purchase money orders and they also sometimes depend on the kindness of postal employees to assist them with the purchase and the completion of the money orders. This type of service is seldom available in larger facilities.

The Postal Service is the only Federal government's presence in our community and can serve as a vital resource in the case of national emergencies.

We believe the location of the Kirksey KY Post Office is significant. Our community is located approximately 10 miles from the larger offices in this area . . . Murray KY, Benton KY and Mayfield KY. To close this office would leave a gap in coverage for postal services.

Postal officials have suggested that a Village Post Office will meet our needs. However, several residents have voiced concern that their mailing needs . . . mailing parcels and purchasing money orders . . . will not be available at a Village Post Office. Many Post Office Box customers are uncomfortable with the level of security for their mail delivery. One of the Post Offices' premium service, PO Box Service, will be in jeopardy if residents are forced to visit the local grocery store to retrieve their mail.

Very few people actually make use of the services of the Rural Carrier for mailing parcels and purchasing money orders. Working people, who are not at home during the day, find attaching parcels to or money inside of a rural mailbox invites theft and advertises the fact that they are not at home. It seems that the Postal Service is pushing its' customers step by step towards alternate delivery options like UPS and FedEx.

And, finally, an emergency suspension, we feel, is an under-handed way to circumvent regulations that were put in place to insure that all citizens receive government services to which they are entitled. Proper procedures are in place for the legal closure of Postal facilities. We respectfully request that the Postal Regulatory Commission insure that these procedures are being followed.

Services at the Kirksey Post Office
will be emergency suspended at
the close of business on Thursday
April 5, 2012

Last day of business for retail transactions will be on
Wednesday April 4, 2012.

Customers presently receiving rural delivery will not
experience a change in service, with the possible
exceptions of picking up parcels and accountable mail
at the Murray Post Offices that the carrier was unable
to deliver.

***Kirksey route customers will continue to use
Kirksey KY 42054 as their last line of delivery.***

*Kirksey PO Boxes will be moved to the Kirksey Store
INC. PO Box Customers will continue to use their
present PO Box address and Kirksey KY 42054 as
the City, State Zip. An address change will not be
required.*