

**Clair A. Carlson, Jr.**  
**11 Kristin Lane**  
**Canton, MA 02021**

To: Postal Regulatory Commission  
From: Clair A. Carlson, Jr.  
Date: October 29, 2019  
Matter: 2020 Postal Rates

I am writing to express my opposition to the Postal Service's stated policy of increasing the basic postage rates in 5 cent increments without any link to general rates of inflation. The basic postage rate was increased from 50 cents to 55 cents at the beginning of 2019 which represents a 10% increase. This increase is vastly greater than typical rate increases in the past which have roughly matched the rate of inflation.

For 2020, the Postal Service proposes to carry on with the 55 cent rate which over a two year period still vastly exceeds the rate of inflation. I prefer to have increases in the basic stamped postage rate track inflationary increases which are matched by annual increases in my social security benefits and are predictable.

I purchase stamps in books of 20, so there is no confusion or benefit to me in having the cost of the stamp be divisible by 5. It is more beneficial to me to have the rate track the rate of inflation and to pay for the increases on a regular basis, rather than to pay a large increase in advance for future inflation for some undetermined period of time until the Postal Service decides to tack on another 5 cent increase.

I believe that the cost of the first-class stamp should be set at 52 cents to roughly match the rate of inflation over the two-year period.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.