

Linda Gilmore Harsy  
Crossroads Elementary School  
7500 Town Square Avenue  
O'Fallon, MO 63368  
April 29, 2021

RECEIVED

2021 MAY 19 P 3:29

Hon. Michael Kubayanda Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001  
Re: Docket number: MC2021-78 DATE

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Kubayanda,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will dramatically increase the rates for flyers and books that are mailed to schools. I teach second grade in the Wentzville School District, Missouri, and there is no doubt that the additional costs will ultimately be passed on to those purchasing books—students and their families.

There are already too many barriers to reading for most families. The bound printed matter rates provide access to affordable books to help me close the gap for my lower-income students who normally could not afford higher-priced books. Typically, more than fifty percent of my students come from families that don't have the means to create home libraries for their children. Scholastic Book Clubs allows me to build a classroom library of books for my students. I also use low-cost but high-quality books as rewards in my class for children who would otherwise never have a new book of their own. These books, both in the classroom and at home, continue to inspire a love of reading in my students, which has a positive impact on their success in all areas of life.

The pandemic has already had a tremendously negative consequence on my students' learning experience and literacy rates in the United States. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make access to children's literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny this transfer, or to exempt educational materials, so that children can continue to have access to affordable, quality books. The impact of this change for our school children would be too high a cost.

Sincerely,



Linda Gilmore Harsy

CC: Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney  
Hon. Gary C. Peters  
Hon. Ron A. Bloom



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