

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 2001

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Docket No. R2001-1

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
COMMENTS ON THE EFFECT OF DOCKET NO. R2001-1
ON PENDING CASES
(October 29, 2001)

In Order No. 1324,¹ the Commission invited participants to comment on the effect of Docket No. R2001-1 on pending cases. The Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) hereby responds to this invitation, but in the form of a request. At the prehearing conference, on October 25, 2001, Vice Chairman Omas and Commissioner Goldway asked the Postal Service to initiate communications with participants in the R2001-1 proceeding, with a view toward settling the rate case (or portions of it). The Postal Service duly notified the parties on October 26, 2001, that an informal settlement conference would be held at Postal Service headquarters on October 30, 2001.

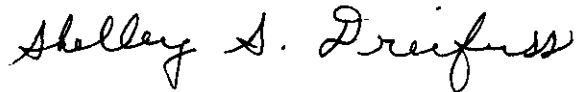
It is OCA's position that if Docket No. R2001-1 can be settled, then there is no reason to delay activities associated with the current active classification and complaint cases, namely Dockets C99-1, C2001-1, C2001-3, R2001-2/MC2001-2, and MC2001-3. If, however, Docket No. R2001-1 cannot be resolved through settlement negotiations, then OCA is of the view that it would be preferable to postpone further procedural actions in the three complaint cases beyond the procedural actions already scheduled if

¹ "Notice and Order on Filing of Proposed Omnibus Postal Rate, Fee and Classification Changes and Related Proceedings," issued September 26, 2001.

the Complainants involved, Douglas Carlson and United Parcel Service, are amenable to such postponements.

OCA asks that it be permitted to supplement these Comments after the settlement negotiations have been allowed to run their course.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with Rule 12 of the rules of practice.



h'Enri Whitsey Johnson

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001
October 29, 2001