

parties time to conduct discovery and cross-examination on this limited issue.

GCA supports the allowance of additional time to explore the “Forever Stamp” proposal. As the Postal Service states, GCA has been working with the Postal Service and the Office of Consumer Advocates over the past several months to develop the “Forever Stamp” proposal. GCA believes that the “Forever Stamp” could be a significant and advantageous development, as it could improve consumer attitudes toward purchasing First Class Letter Mail stamps when a rate change is pending or imminent and would eliminate the need for consumers to purchase “makeup” stamps when rate changes take effect. This is of particular concern to GCA because most mailed greeting cards are sent by households, and (unlike the greater part of business-origin letter mail) are paid with adhesive stamps. Extra visits to a retail window to purchase makeup or new-denomination stamps are a significant inconvenience for consumers, and thus a deterrent to consumers’ use of First-Class Mail for both personal correspondence and business transactions.

The Postal Service has shown good cause for the suspension of filing requirements with respect to the Forever Stamp proposal. GCA also believes that, as suggested by the Postal Service, the Forever Stamp issue should be seriously considered as a possible subject for partial settlement.

Respectfully submitted,

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