

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS PRICE CHANGES  
RE RATES OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

DOCKET NO. CP2009-8

INITIAL COMMENTS OF DAVID B. POPKIN

December 1, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

PRCCP20098COMMENTS

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The following are my comments on the Notice and Order Concerning Change in Rates of General Applicability for all Competitive Products.

My first concern is what purpose the public comment period in this Docket will serve. The various Postal Service releases and website links appear to indicate that the proposed rates and classification changes will be a "done deal". The Federal Register for November 28, 2008 contains the FINAL RULE <sup>1</sup> and NOTICE of a change in rules. <sup>2</sup>

It would appear that any comments that I or any other member of the public may make on the Postal Service's notice of changes in general applicability and of concomitant classification changes for competitive products can serve no purpose.

My second concern relates to the various mailing containers<sup>3</sup> that the Postal Service provides to users of Priority Mail and Express Mail. These containers fall into two categories - Flat-Rate and non-Flat-Rate. This Docket is proposing the addition of a

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<sup>1</sup> 73FR72615

<sup>2</sup> 73FR72630

<sup>3</sup> Both envelopes and boxes.

new size Flat-Rate box for Priority Mail. Depending on the weight and zone or distance traveled, the postage for any Flat-Rate container could either be more or less than the postage for a non-Flat-Rate container.

It is important that the Postal Service ensure that both types of containers be available in the various postal facilities to provide a knowledgeable mailer the opportunity to utilize the container of choice.

It is also important that the Postal Service provide the mailing public with sufficient information for them to understand the significance of using a Flat-Rate vs. a non-Flat-Rate container for the mailing. The Postal Service is still a government agency with the obligation of informing its customers of the information which will allow them to make an educated choice on their mailing.