

DOCKET SECTION

**BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-001 FEB 19 2 35 PM '98

Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 1997

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Docket No. R97-1

AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION, INC.

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION

**Daniel B. Weaver
Attorney**

February 17th 1998

The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc. is a federation of groups, persons and entities having a common interest in beekeeping and related enterprises. Among its members are groups, individuals and entities that produce package bees and ship package bees by Special Handling Parcel Post. The Federation also has members that buy package bees and receive package bees through Special Handling Mail.

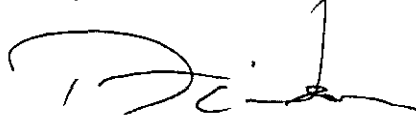
The Federation was authorized by its membership to intervene in this case at the Federation convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado in January of this year. This Intervention is for the limited purpose of contesting and opposing the United States Postal Service request for a 220% increase in Special Handling Fees.

Pursuant to Postal Rate Commission Rule 3001.20, The American Beekeeping Federation Intervenes in this Case to Oppose the Postal Service request for a 220% Special Handling Rate Increase on the following Grounds: (a) that the Postal Service request is not fair and equitable; (b) the Special Handling service is so valuable to the Beekeeping Industry as to be indispensable and the 220% fee increase would make use of Special Handling by Beekeepers practically and economically unavailable; (c) that the Postal Service has not correctly calculated the Costs associated with the provision of Special Handling Services and is attempting to attribute costs associated with other classes or services to users of Special Handling; (d) that the proposed 220% fee increase would have a disastrous effect on the beekeeping industry and the general public; (e) that the proposed rate increase would leave

Beekeepers with the Hobson's choice of paying an exorbitant rate or abandoning the use of package bees;(f) that the cultural, scientific, informational and ecological value of package bees is of sufficient import to require the continuation of the Special Handling Service at affordable rates. 39 U.S.C. Section 3622(b).

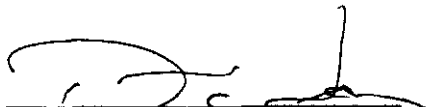
The American Beekeeping Federation respectfully request that the Postal Rate Commission Recommend denial of the 220% Special Handling Rate Increase proposed by the United States Postal Service for all of the reasons listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,



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The American Beekeeping Federation, Inc.
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I certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the rules of practice.


Daniel Weaver

February 18, 1998