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**RE: A2011-29 The closing of Bigelow Post Office.**

As a lifelong citizen of Bigelow, I am deeply concerned with the recent actions taken by the U.S. Postal Service to close the Bigelow Post Office. I realize that the Postal Service is bleeding badly financially and **MUST** consolidate some services. However, having said that, I cannot understand why Bigelow was chosen. I do realize that the last post master left and the office was being run (quite efficiently I might add) by a clerk as well as the mail carriers **BUT** to close this post office and leave a **MUCH** smaller post office open not 10 minutes away in the city of Houston makes no sense to me. And then to say that Bigelow's mail service will be consolidated with Conway's postal service certainly makes no sense! Gas prices as well as vehicle mileage, maintenance, etc. for our carriers who have to drive to Conway daily to work and then drive back to Bigelow to deliver the mail are not going to reflect any savings for the postal service as far as I can tell for God's sake!

The city of Houston has one store, one business, a city hall, a fire station and their regular customers. The City of Bigelow has two stores, an elementary school, a high school, a car wash, a barber shop, a fire station, a city hall and Johnson Brothers Construction as well as regular postal customers. Bigelow Post Office services a much larger number of regular customers with their p.o. boxes and a **MUCH** larger route service than Houston. Yet, we are told that Bigelow has to close while Houston stays open. It makes much more sense to transfer the Houston Postmaster to Bigelow (no more than a 20 minute commute for him at most), consolidate Houston's mail service (and postal routes) with Bigelow's and close the Houston Post Office.

I would venture to guess that the schools in Bigelow alone do more business with the postal service than Houston's entire population does! Yet we are having our services moved to Conway?! To me, this reflects very poor planning. I realize that it isn't feasible to hire a "new" postmaster for Bigelow with the current financial crisis at the postal service but there is no law against transferring postmasters is there?! As I said, Houston is only a 10 minute drive from Bigelow! I'm just a humble school teacher and not a CPA but it would seem to me that it would make much better sense financially to consolidate the smaller post office with the larger one and then close the smaller one rather than the larger one. To close the larger one and consolidate its services with a post office in a completely different county is absurd!

I request a grant of waiver from filing online. The docket number for this appeal is:

A2011-29

  
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Received

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Office of PAGR