

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

August 19, 2011

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Postal Regulatory Commission
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Washington DC 20268-0001

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

A2011-44

Dear Members of the Postal Regulatory Commission:

This letter is an appeal of the United States Postal Service decision to close the Grant, Iowa post office. Docket number 1365387 – 50847, date of posting 8/1/2011, FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE THE GRANT, IA POST OFFICE AND ESTABLISH SERVICE BY RURAL ROUTE SERVICE.

Section 101(b) of Title 39 of the U. S. Code reads as follows: “The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities.”

“No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities.” I think this is a very important part of the U.S. Code. In my opinion when reading the final report that was posted at the post office, and what I observed at the meeting in Grant, Iowa on February 23rd, revenue was something the Postal Service keyed in on. At the meeting on Feb. 23rd when someone asked the Postal Review Director (I believe her name was Sara Lindauer) how much it cost to run the post office she said it cost \$50,000. I questioned her on this and she said ‘yes it cost \$50,000’. I still couldn’t believe it would cost \$50,000 to run the post office in Grant; therefore I asked again, and this time I was told it was \$18,500. I wondered to myself then, and now, if this was the figure originally used when looking at closing the Grant Post Office. When you look at the docket under IV. Economic Savings you will note they show the Total Annual Costs of \$23,892, not the \$18,500 we were told at the meeting in Grant on February 23rd.

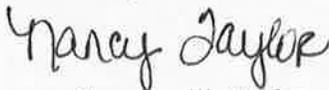
I understand living ‘within your means’; however if the United States Postal Service is concerned about money, my question is why do they (USPS) staff over 200 career attorneys in offices across the country. (Found this on USPS – Law Department website in Feb. 2011) Cutting back here you would see a big savings, instead of closing rural post offices that will have a major affect on its citizens and community.

Yes, Grant, Iowa is a small rural town with the majority of its citizens retired. Yes, they (the citizen of Grant) enjoy going to the post office to visit with their neighbors, and not having the post office open is a concern to them. With the post office being one of three active businesses in Grant, (Post Office, Hayloft, and Swartz Implement) seeing its possible demise will have a big affect on the community. Yes, if the post office closes we will be losing our identity, even with our addresses staying the same.

In an article I read in the Omaha World Hearld Richard Watkins, spokesman for the Postal Service's Des Moines-based Hawkeye District said "the proposed closings of 3,700 post offices nationwide is 'not a done deal.' He said the Postal Service will listen to community input and no office will be closed between now and December." I therefore feel the Grant Post Office is saved for now.

Thank you for reading my letter, and doing all in your power to save the Grant, Iowa Post Office.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Nancy (Bill) Taylor

P O Box 144

Grant, Iowa 50847

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Cc: Iowa Governor Terry Brandstad

Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley

Iowa Senator Tom Harkin

Iowa 5th District Representative Steve King

Iowa 3rd District Representative Leonard Boswell