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BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

SEP 19 2011

Postal Regulatory
Commission
Office of the Secretary

WEST ELKTON, Ohio 45070
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No: A2011-53

Richard Bair on behalf of
Gratis Township Trustees Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the WEST ELKTON post office. The Final Determination was posted 8-31-2011 (date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

**GRATIS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO**

09-12-2012

U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

Subject: Fm 61 Brief

Dear Sirs,

We appreciate this opportunity to further express our concerns about the closing of our local Post Office here in West Elkton, Ohio. We feel that there are several facts that haven't been taken into consideration in your decision. We are hesitant to pit one community against another but we have no other choice. When we see that a neighboring community, such as Collinsville in Butler County, which has fewer residents and has a facility even more sub-par than here in West Elkton, will remain open, we feel this isn't right. Here in West Elkton we have a local school with approx. 350 students and approx. 30 employees where-as Collinsville has no local school. We have a local branch of the Preble County Library where-as Collinsville has no library. There are several other businesses that you have listed in your summary that the other community lacks. There are approx. 60 homes with-in the corporation limits of the Village and your summary shows that there are 136 PO boxes for general delivery. These other 76 PO Boxes are used by people that live outside the corporation boundaries by residents of Gratis Township including myself. The reasons that many people have chosen to get their mail at the local Post Office is simple: it is more secure. After having your mail box vandalized, a person will try and find a better alternative to rural delivery.

We feel that the West Elkton Post Office is being treated unfairly due to the fact that we are the most northern Post Office in the 450—zip code area and that this is a disparity of treatment. If the same criteria were applied to the Collinsville Post Office then they would be the office to close and not West Elkton. The Collinsville Post Office is in fact only four miles from the Somerville Post Office. This is closer than any other alternative that we have.

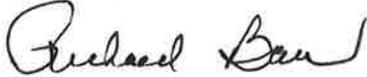
We appreciate the difficulty that the Postal system is having concerning the employees post-retirement benefit costs and trying to close on Saturdays. But these items are out of our hands and all we can do is write to our Congressmen. We understand that the overhead costs to operate this Village Post Office are high, but we question if anyone has tried to negotiate a lower rental with the building's landlord. Without the Post Office as a lessee this building will probably remain empty as it would not meet any zoning regulations for residential occupancy.

We certainly appreciate the due diligence that the Postal System has undertaken to try and adjust to an ever-changing society with all the technological changes that have occurred in recent years. All that being said, keep in mind that most of the people that are served by the

Post Office here in West Elkton don't have high speed internet service or can't afford it, consequently they depend on still doing things the 'old fashioned' way, using the Post Office. Even if it were a possibility that a rural Post Office such as West Elkton were only opened half a day with the other half used to keep a similar Post Office open such as Collinsville, this would be a much more acceptable solution.

In conclusion, the residents of Gratis Township and the Village of West Elkton are imploring you to reconsider your decision on the closure of our local Post Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Bair".

Richard Bair

Gratis Township Fiscal Officer

PO Box 24

West Elkton, Ohio 45070