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Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave. NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you to appeal the decision to close the North Canton Post Office in North Canton, Connecticut.

We are quite disappointed with this decision since the residents in this area (which includes sections of Granby and Barkhamsted) are the furthest distance by many miles from the main post office.

At the meeting in May, it was stated that the other post offices in town had outstanding postmasters and so they could not be closed. This is a real puzzle! Why cannot a standing postmaster from either of the other three post offices be moved up to North Canton, especially since the Canton Post Office and Collinsville Post office are very close to each other? This would be a plus for that person since they would not lose their position and be a HUGE convenience for the residences of North Canton and surrounding communities that border our area.

The Hartford Courant (September 1, 2010) stated the comments sent to the review committee indicated that the main reason was people didn't want to lose the identity of this part of Canton. That is not the main reason. Distance of driving and the inability of those who cannot drive, but can walk to the post office are the reason for this appeal.

Attached are the letters previously sent to Congressman Murphy, Mr. Mazzola and Ms Matronianni. We are hopeful that you will seriously take these comments into consideration and keep our post office open. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ray and Dru McNeil  
100 Case Street (North Canton)  
Canton, Ct 06019  
860-693-2557

May 9, 2011

Congressman Chris Murphy  
114 West Main St.  
Suite 206  
New Britain, CT 06051

Dear Congressman Murphy,

After attending a North Canton community meeting regarding a study the U.S. Postal Service held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we are sending this letter in regards to the possible, hopefully not, closing of our post office in North Canton.

- 1.) Our post office is approximately 1 1/2 miles round trip from our home. The next nearest post office is a 7 mile round trip and the larger post office is a 16 mile round trip. Since many of us do not head in the direction of those post offices and with the price of gas, this does not appear to be a good alternative. As you can see, the North Canton post office is the furthest post office out in this rural end of town.
- 2.) There are many elderly citizens that live close enough to our post office, but do not drive. They do walk to the office for postal transactions, which is very convenient for them.
- 3.) A survey was sent to customers for their input. What most of us discovered is the U. S. Postal Service only sent the survey to customers that have P.O. boxes at the post office, not all the citizens who live in this area. How could they ascertain our usage when we were not included in the mailing? All of us used to have 06059 zip code until the postal service changed it to 06019 for direct mailing to your home. Only those with P.O. boxes could retain 06059, but all of us whether we use 06019 or 06059 use the North Canton post office for other postal services.
- 4.) Besides the residences, one of the largest users of the North Canton Post Office is the North Canton Community United Methodist Church. They mail their monthly newsletter, envelope mailings and other sundry mailing, which are needed to insure a well-informed congregation. The church is located only 1/2 a mile from the North Canton post office.
- 5.) Our post office was established in 1826. By closing our post office, this most northern section of our community would lose its identity after 185 years.
- 6.) After numerous years of having a sitting postmaster at the North Canton office, approximately a year ago the U.S. Postal Service filled the position with a great person, Kathy Condron. She does a fabulous job and offers the community friendly and professional service. What many residents did not realize is the U.S.

Postal Service did not replace the position with what they term a "sitting postmaster". A post office with a "sitting postmaster" cannot be closed over one that does not have a "sitting postmaster". Even though they say this is only a study for closure, we feel the postal service planned this move so we have no way to negotiate the closings of other area post offices that have a "sitting postmaster". If our post office were to close, the North Canton residents would have to travel the furthest to do any postal transactions. Other residents in town served by branch offices, are located closer to the main Canton post office.

- 7.) We were also informed at the meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> that when a post office is closed, the workers there are reassigned to other post offices. Therefore, salary savings are not part of the equation when closing post offices, only rent, utilities and maintenance. The owner of the building where the North Canton post office is located, stated at the meeting that he has not been approached to negotiate a lower rent.
- 8.) The U.S. Postal Service has said that overall the postal system is losing money and doesn't receive support from the government, but has to pay taxes, which is leading to this gap of income to keep offices open. In actuality, the post office is making a profit. (Bristol Press, April 9, 2011-Delivering for America). Congress requires the Postal Service to put \$5.5 billion of its earnings each year into a "pre-fund" for future pre health insurance, which is many years down the road. This began in 2007 and the postal service has tucked away \$20.8 billion dollars since 2007. No other business or government agency has such a requirement. This funding comes from the operating budget instead being able to internally transfer from other surplus funds. If the operating budget could be left in tact, it would have earned a profit of \$837 million since 2007. Is their a way Congress could look into this to make adjustments, so the vital branch post offices can remain open to provide services for its residents who live close by?

Instead of investigating ways to close the post office, efforts should be forthcoming in how to keep the North Canton Post Office open and maintain the services to our residents.

Thank you for all your help and support in this matter. It would be greatly appreciated by all of us in the North Canton area.

Sincerely,

Ray and Dru McNeil  
100 Case Street  
Canton (North Canton), Ct 06019  
860-693-2557

Additional points to original letter.

- Postal Service Stops Paying Into Health Service ( Hartford Courant June 23, 2011). Since the Postal Service stated they would save \$800 million this fiscal year, a miniscule amount of that savings could be applied to keeping our North Canton Post Office open to the convenience of hundreds of residences in our area.
- There is only a 1% saving in closing post offices, but a huge convenience to those who use the North Canton post office!