

A 2011-99

9/12/2011

Dear USPS Regulatory Commission, Dean J. Granholm, Phil Ventura, and whomever else it may concern,

Please be advised that I am hereby officially appealing your final determination to close the Ingleside, MD Post Office, docket #1367944-21644, per instructions contained in notice from D. Granholm dated 8/5/2011, and officially posted for viewing on 8/15/2011.

As a legal tax paying American Citizen, and frequent customer of the Ingleside, MD Post Office, I have been closely following the effort, by individuals within the USPS, to close down our local Post office against our wishes. It is very disappointing to read that the USPS has determined to close down the rural Ingleside, MD Post Office that has been serving customers for many miles around, including many families in neighboring communities who do not have an "Ingleside, MD" physical address.

I frequently take packages to the Ingleside Post Office for Priority Mail, and First Class Mail International services. The Ingleside, MD Post Office is so conveniently located that I can make these trips only while on my way to other necessary destinations or on my bicycle if there is no other place I have to go. To ask me and many other existing customers to drive another 3 miles (each way) to the other side of Ingleside, to go to the Barclay Post Office and send our packages, is unacceptable. This is further than I can pedal my bicycle at my age, and is a waste of currently expensive vehicle fuel. How much extra fuel cost did you calculate into your closure study for all of the Ingleside customers to travel to Barclay in the future, and for the USPS itself to "Extend Service by Rural Route Service"?

When concern was raised by existing customers that we would have to travel to another Post Office for service, you responded "*Services provided at the Post Office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another Post Office for service*". A rural route carrier will not be able to do the paperwork, signature witnessing, package weighing, etc. required to ship my packages via First Class Mail International, this service is not even available on the USPS website, and it is best done at a local Post Office location.

Do you seriously expect me or most others who needs special postal services (now currently available to us at the Ingleside Post Office, at our convenience), to do as you suggested in your response "*If you desire special services from the rural route carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services*"? Instead of going to a convenient Post office, at a time that is convenient to us, you expect us to write little notes and leave them in our box by the roadside, then set at home and wait for a rural route carrier to come by during the middle of the day when we have other places we are required to be? You expect us to be able to hear them honk their car horn from inside our homes, many of which are several hundred yards or more away from the mailboxes at the roadsides? We like our homes away from the roadsides, so we don't have to hear motorized traffic, car horns, and all. Then when, and if, we hear a horn honk, we are supposed to get in our cars, or go on foot, "out through the rain, sleet, snow and hail, to process our daily mail".

Instead of closing our small, low cost and efficient rural Post Office, the only one for miles around, please re-consider instead closing down more of the numerous urban Post offices which often only serve only a few city blocks. What are we to do in a few years down the road when you want to then close down the Barclay, MD Post Office, will we be sent even further miles down the road? We have no taxpayer funded transit systems within our rural neighborhoods like they do in urban areas, and the yearly Post office lease costs here are a much better value to the USPS than those in urban areas as well.

We understand the legitimate need to make the USPS self funding and debt free, and we see cuts in urban areas to be a much better bang for the buck in reaching those objectives.

Thanks and regards,
Christopher Vaught
PO Box 15
Ingleside, MD 21644

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