

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

In the Matter of:

Bentonville, Ohio 45105  
Post Office State ZIP Code  
Linda Naylor on behalf of  
citizens of Bentonville, Petitioner(s)

Docket No: A2011-58

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Bentonville post office. The Final Determination was posted 08/03/2011 (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.

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Manchester, Ohio  
September 28, 2011

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter of comment for the purpose of keeping the Bentonville, Ohio Post Office from being closed. The appeal Docket number is A2011-58.

The Bentonville Post Office is a major part of the town of Bentonville. The fact that the late Mrs. Verna Naylor was the oldest postmaster in the United States and also the oldest postal employee in the United States is of great historical significance to the town and also to the postal system's history.

The town of Bentonville has the famous Anti-Horse Thief Society and on Sept. 9-11, 2011 the Bentonville Harvest Festival celebration was held. The theme this year was 35 years of Memories and all of the grand marshals were honored. Mrs. Naylor was chosen as the first grand marshal of the festival celebrations in 1995.

The closing of the Bentonville Post Office will have a devastating effect on the community. Many of the elderly people in town will have to travel to nearby towns to transact postal business. They will not receive a maximum degree of service because a rural route will cause their mail to be postponed at least one day.

The delivery of packages will create a hardship if the residents aren't at home at the time of rural delivery.

The erection of rural boxes will present a health hazard to all residents. The traffic is very heavy in the town due to the fact that the main highway connects three major routes with the cities. Sometimes one has to wait until 15 or 20 cars pass before entering St. Rt. 41.

In a bad winter, there are snow piles more than 4 feet tall around poles, etc. which makes it very difficult to drive through the back alleys and streets.

I could write many reasons for keeping the Bentonville Post Office open, but it seems the decision for closure has already been made. It is very evident by comments from residents that rural route plans have already been made by the Postal System even though the Bentonville Post Office is in the appeal stage.

I am an H&R Block manager and therefore work mainly during the winter months. I also

work as a sub teacher when I have the opportunity. I have a family and have difficulty paying my bills and doing repair on my vehicle. I do not have extra money to purchase stamps in advance. I can buy one stamp at a post office versus a book at the nearby Wal-Mart.

The people in the Bentonville community help me--not the big stores or on-line services.

Millions of people will be affected by the closing of the small post offices in the United States. The decisions from the Postal System's high ranking officials are destroying America's small communities, their history, and their livelihood.

The issue the possibility of mail or money being stolen from a rural box was supported last Wednesday. Two people were arrested when they were caught in broad daylight stealing an antique washing machine from the yard where the mail truck is parked. If thieves would steal something this big, why wouldn't they steal from a mail box? The thieves were arrested and taken to jail. They had other records and didn't have current driver's licenses. One was carrying a weapon and had drugs in her purse. The car was taken away by a wrecker. Placing rural mail boxes in town will only encourage trouble.

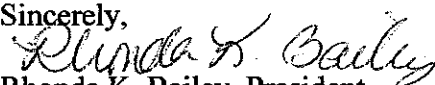
I think one bit of advice from the Postal Regulatory Commission sent to the Postal System would be to hire a new Postmaster General with ideas that would help save the small post offices.

The money being spent for salaries of postal employees for town meetings, writing the proposals to close, final proposals, letters of responses, etc. is yet another reason that the Postal system is failing. Higher ranking officials are causing other postal employees to lose their jobs. The Postal System has lost its vision of what providing mail service to the people should be.

Raising the prices of first class stamps would have been one way to generate revenue for the Postal System and still save the small offices.

The monetary savings from the closing of the small offices is no comparison to the effect of the cost of millions of dollars to postal patrons in the United States. Please save the Bentonville, Ohio Post Office and the others in the United States.

Sincerely,

  
Rhonda K. Bailey, President  
Bentonville Harvest Festival  
5033 Old Dutch Road  
Manchester, Ohio 45144

I am requesting a grant of wavier from filing on-line due to not being able to file on line properly with a computer.