

September 26, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave., NW
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Subject: Appeal of Closure of Breaks Post Office, Docket Number 1355731-24607

Dear PRC:

I am writing on behalf of the historic Breaks community to appeal the final determination to close the Breaks, VA Post Office, as posted by Dean Granholm on 09/02/2011.

In reviewing the USPS response to the EFFECT ON COMMUNITY, three items deservedly require appeal with the voice of our 335 residents:

- 1) Community identity – USPS states that community identity derives from vitality of residents and use of name. We disagree. Breaks’ identity is the sum of residents’ vitality, use of name, *and* the public facilities and infrastructure that connect and serve the residents. The Breaks Post Office is the keystone of our community.
- 2) Breaks is one of two interstate parks in the U.S. – USPS states that this has no bearing on PO requirements. We disagree. Breaks is in fact the gateway to “The Grand Canyon of the South,” a tourist showcase heavily promoted by the State of Virginia. Touring a village with a closed Post Office sends a message about lack of value and investment in public service. In addition, Breaks is located on the Coal Heritage Trail, another tourist destination, so maintaining its services is vital to attracting travelers, tourist, and revenue.
- 3) Growth in the community – USPS states that growth does not depend on the post office. We ask that the PRC consider the negative long-term impact on this community in context of a “perfect storm:” the post office closing *and* the new Coalfields Expressway that truncates Breaks’ main road halfway through the village. These two forces effectively diminish the daily life of a patriotic group of citizens as well as any potential for future growth.

For these reasons, and to “do the right thing, we respectfully ask that the USPS withdraw the decision to close the Breaks Post Office.

Sincerely,

James L. Childress
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Office of PAGR