

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

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I am writing to appeal the closing of the Basalt, Idaho post office. I feel that you need to wait and see what the government will do with its relief measures. They have proposed to close all post offices on Saturdays. This alone should prove to be quite a savings to the Postal Service. They have also proposed to restructure the retirement funding. You need to wait and not close us down too soon.

You have tried to address all of our concerns, but there have been some you have not had an answer for. One of them is how much you will save and I feel it is a drop in a bucket to what you lose. When you met with us back in April, you said the postal service loses \$23 million a day. To run the Basalt Post office is such a small fraction of that. In figuring how much you say you will save to close our post office, it would take 621 YEARS to make up for one days loss.

Another concern is that you are punishing us for not having a post master since 2008. It is not our fault we haven't had a postmaster. That is your fault. You don't seem to have an answer for this. Why does it take 6 months or more to replace someone? When someone retires or there becomes a vacancy, you post an opening and within 2 or 3 weeks you have a replacement.

There has been a post office in this town since the late 1800's. It is the only place in town to get information about the community.

We enjoy the security of a post office. You say there haven't been any reports of vandalism. Well, we haven't had boxes out at the road to be vandalized so you don't know what it will be like. I

think if you close us down, it will be a big mistake. If you close us, you should be willing to let us have a post office box in Firth for free. If we want the security a post office box brings you should offer us one for free at Firth, because again, it's not our fault you are closing this one.

There has also been talk of closing the facility in Pocatello where our mail is distributed from. This would cause our mail to have to travel to Salt Lake before heading to its destination. This will slow the mail down considerably. We are going to be slower than back in the pony express days.

Please reconsider the closing of this post office. Look for other ways that would save so much more than closing down our post office. We need this in our community.

Thank you,

Mary W. Craft
P.O. Box 121
Basalt, ID 83218