

A 2011-87

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

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Tima Smith  
P.O. Box 93  
Pomfret Center, CT 06259

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 18, 2011

Office of the Secretary  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave., NW  
Suite 200 Washington, DC 20268

RE: Closure of Pomfret Center, CT post office (06259)

Dear Ms. Grove,

Thank you for accepting my letter of appeal and for the opportunity to respond with a petition statement. That is enclosed.

I appreciate your time and your willingness to consider this matter.

Sincerely,



BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

In the Matter of:

POMFRET CTR, CT 06259 :  
Post Office State ZIP Code :

Docket No: A2011-87

TIMA SMITH Petitioner(s) :

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the POMFRET CTR, CT post office. The Final Determination was posted 9/28/2011 (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.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

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Reason for appeal petition against closing of Pomfret Center, CT post office (06259): The USPS failed to adequately assess the effect the closing of the 06259 branch will have on the community's postal needs.

I'm quite certain no site visits were made or study done prior to the USPS's decision to close the 06259 branch. That was obvious from the lack of knowledge concerning the situation shown by USPS employees at the informational meeting in April, 2011. I'm certain the decision was arbitrarily based on 1) the fact that 06259 has no postmaster, and 2) the economic benefit to the USPS.

It appears that no concern at all was given to the effect closing 06259 would have on Pomfret's postal patrons, especially on box holders and businesses that receive parcels through the USPS (including UPS parcels that are undeliverable because of difficult rural driveways.)

The branch being closed (06259) is larger, more centrally located, newer, has more service lines, more employees, more (though still inadequate) parking, and, most importantly for me and others who prefer to or must rent a P.O. box, room for both current and future box needs.

The branch being left open (06258) is half the size of 06259, not centrally located, very old, has room for only the one existing service line, has few or no vacant boxes and no room for additional boxes, has only four parking spaces and no room for more, and is located on a blind curve of the main two-lane highway through Pomfret.

If 06259 is closed, box holders will be forced to drive to other towns or non-USPS box facilities for their mail. In addition, an inadequate facility (06258) will have to deal with the entire town's parcel pick-up, accountables, and other transactions. Personally, my business mail, which includes a good deal of Priority and oversized mail will be negatively impacted.

Also, I feel that our concerns have not been met with a reasonable and truly concerned response—unless one believes that showing concern is being told to drive five miles out of town to get one's mail. At first, we

were assured that additional parking would be added at the 06258 facility, although we in Pomfret knew that was impossible. More recently, the USPS answer to the parking concern is that the USPS is "reviewing their options." Believe me, there are no options for more parking at the 06258 facility.

Pomfret residents are not simply being asked to change to one post office that will handle all their postal needs as well, or even almost as well, as they are now being handled. We are being asked to suffer a serious down-grade of postal service. In addition to being left with inadequate postal services today, what will happen in the future as Pomfret grows?

In an effort to make the postal situation Pomfret is facing as clear and efficient as possible, I've set out specific salient facts below.

- Pomfret is a small rural community, approximately 40 sq. miles in size, and with a population of approximately 4000. In 1991, Pomfret's Abington branch post office (06230) was closed and mail from that branch was transferred to the 06259 branch.

The branch the USPS plans to close (06259):

- Is more centrally located within Pomfret, 2-3 miles closer to the center of town.
- Is approximately 1800 square feet in size, with two service lines, 4-6 employees, and nine parking spaces (one of which is a handicap, and four others taken by employees.)
- Has 334 rental boxes of which 77 are vacant, plus sufficient room for an additional 200 boxes or more.
- Is located in a safer location on Murdock Road, adjacent to Route 44. Traffic on Murdock Rd. must slow at the P.O. because they are approaching a Stop sign at Route 44.
- Has insufficient parking at busy times—Saturday morning, weekdays 3:00-4:00 PM, and just before closing.

- This branch has been handling a closed facility's mail (Abington branch 06230) since 1991, so already handles the majority of Pomfret's mail, including carrier service.

The branch the USPS plans to keep open (06258):

- Is located at one edge of Pomfret, 2 ½ miles from an adjacent town's border.
- Is approximately 900 sq. ft in size, with one service line, two employees, and four parking spaces (one handicap.)
- Has 216 rental boxes, 198 now rented, and no room for additional boxes.
- Is located on Route 44, a U.S. highway that is the main road through Pomfret. The post office facility is at a blind curve, so that making a left egress out of the parking lot is decidedly dangerous.
- Has insufficient parking at busy times—Saturday morning, weekdays 3:00-4:00 PM, and just before closing.