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10/18/2011

Dean J. Granholm
Post Office Operations /the Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Ste 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

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2011 OCT 26 P 5: 01

Dear Mr. Granholm,

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am writing to appeal the decision to close the Post Office in Calpine, California, 96124, for these reasons:

- 1) The Postal Service's analysis of costs, on which this decision is based, is flawed and frivolous. The analysis states that the cost of an alternate means of providing equivalent service to my community is \$0.00. This is ridiculous: the proposal to install, deliver mail to and maintain 'cluster boxes' will incur significant costs (and will not provide equivalent service.) I would like to Postal service to really analyze the new costs and also to look at reducing costs by reducing hours of service rather than closing entirely.
- 2) The postal service officials have not presented a plan that will provide equivalent alternate service to the community of Calpine. The first proposal for an alternate administrative PO for our area was the Sierraville PO which is 9 miles away across a desolate windswept valley and is now under study for closure. The next proposal was for Clio (which maybe should be under study) at 12 miles away over a mountain pass. Other proposals are for PO's that are 17 and 24 miles away. The suggestion that our carrier can meet us at the 'cluster boxes' to complete the transactions we would normally complete in the PO is ridiculous. Our wintertime mountain weather is notable for having made the Donner Party famous. A rural carrier will not be able to keep to a tight schedule for meeting customers at a roadside cluster box and our citizens will be at risk of the same fate that befell the Donner party if they are forced to wait outside to conduct business.
- 3) I am one of many citizens who operate home businesses that are essential to the economy of this rural area. I send and receive over 100 very large packages of varying weight and size per year via the Post office. I purchase insurance, delivery confirmation, etc. I need to conduct this business at a local Post Office window.
- 4) I will also point out that the 6 month long process of 'study for closure' of this Post Office, with its community meetings and computer generated robo-responses mailed in duplicate to 'postal patrons' has been a frivolous expense, as it appears very clearly that the decision to close the Post Office was made before the 'study' process began and the consumer affairs folks in Las Vegas have not considered or responded accurately to any of our comments or concerns.

I understand that the US Postal Service is facing huge challenges as it works to provide the services required while costs rise and revenues fall. But the decision to close this post office would cost the USPS money, not save money, would reduce our services, discriminate against a rural area and reduce USPS revenue.

The USPS determined years ago that the most efficient way to provide required service to our community is to operate a small post office here. Our PO space is subsidized by Sierra County and the county provides free snow removal service. The PO is the hub of our community. There are no other customer services in town. Please review this decision carefully and work with us to save our Post Office. Thank you.

Dolly B. Chapman
PO Box 91 (since 1987)
Calpine, CA 96124



Received

OCT 24 2011

Cc: Loretta Kirkpatrick, USPS, 1001 E Sunset Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89199-9655

Office of PAGR