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P.O. Box 166
CALPINE, CA. 96124
October 21, 2011

RECEIVED

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Attention:

Postal Regulatory commission
901 New York Ave, NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

SUBJECT:

**PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE CALPINE POST OFFICE,
CA. 96124**

To: Members of the Commission:

The lack of personal response to Calpine residents, concern, and total ignorance about our small town is inconceivable. Evidenced by Ms. Kirkpatrick and Ms. Brown's Community meetings held in Calpine and Sierraville in September and July, little or no research had or has since been conducted to allow for a truly fair decision as to whether or not to close the Calpine Post Office. It was appalling that Ms. Brown, before her first meeting with the Calpine residents, had not even taken a drive around the Sierra Valley to determine the location of each operating Post Office and the distance between each – Calpine, Clio, Graeagle, Sierraville, Loyalton. Not only the distance, but the terrain to be considered in bad weather.

Here are other noticeable observations about the USPS organization:

- no understanding about the demographics in this area
- no consideration was or has been shown to those residents who operate their businesses from home and rely daily on the Post Office to run their businesses
- no concern for our elder residents who do not drive and there is no type of scheduled public transportation anywhere in the Sierra Valley and no taxi service

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Office of PAGR

- the community meetings that were held made residents feel and believe that the meetings were merely 'a part of the process' with decisions already made

- (I understand) NO RESPONSE to SIERRA COUNTY who offered a reduction to USPS in rent I know you have received many letters and appeals from many of our residents and noting a lot more detail. We would like to know WHO is actually READING these letters and appeals and

WHO really cares enough to do something about the reality that this Community could be facing.

Already stated by others – here are facts:

- MANY Calpine residents rely on USPS for medication

- MANY home businesses register, insure, certify etc. packages – most of which are large and need immediate handling for timely delivery to customers.

- Winter weather conditions in Calpine are often treacherous – driving 26 miles (Loyalton) is not even feasible on a daily basis for ANYONE leave alone our elders who can not drive

- Emergency situations could easily increase during the winter months and our emergency crews are already stretched ... USPS needs to seriously consider this matter.

- Going to the Post Office is NOT like shopping as stated by your USPS representatives at one of the Community meetings – Shopping for our residents is once or twice a month (due the distance to our nearest shopping centers) and online with those purchasers relying on the Post Office for delivery.

- The majority of Calpine residents pay their bills by MAIL. Any alternative to our Post office will not allow for timely payments OR timely receipt of bills.

- A proper cost analysis could not possibly have taken place because the information shared is not accurate. (Cost of P.O replacement = '0' ...no way!) Building cluster boxes, maintaining cluster boxes, paying a mail carrier, paying rent on the land where the cluster boxes may be constructed, will be no more cost efficient and slight at the most. Besides the locks on the doors freeze up in the winter in most cases making them impossible to open.

– Our rural residents and small businesses are in need of the full service Post Office – our Community generates good revenue for USPS. We send/receive many more packages than most city dwellers.

And lastly– Having the Calpine Post Office accessible year-round is a NECESSITY, not a convenience, based on all the facts provided by myself other Calpine residents.

We sincerely hope that our letters and appeals WILL BE READ, LISTENED TO, FURTHER RESEARCH CONDUCTED, FOLLOWED UP WITH SOME PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH OUR COMMUNITY (vs form letters) AND RESPONDED TO IN A POSITIVE AND TIMELY MANNER.

My husband and I personally will appreciate your serious consideration to our appeal to KEEP OUR VALUABLE ASSETT IN CALPINE – THE POST OFFICE – OPEN.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

 

Michael and Stacey Estrada
P.O. Box 166 (140 Calpine Rd.)
408-248-6675

Patrick Donahoe, Postmaster General
Yul J. Melanson, District Manager
Loretta Kirkpatrick, Manager Consumer Affairs
Doug Watson, Manager Post Office Operations, Reno, NV
Congressman Tom McClintock, 4th District, California
Congressman Wally Herger
State Assemblyman Dan Logue
Sierra County Supervisor Chairman,