

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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Postal Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

NOV 21 2011

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In the Matter of:

Woodstock, Minnesota 56186  
Post Office State ZIP Code

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMIN. OFFICER

Docket No: A2012-33

Citizens of Woodstock, MN  
Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Woodstock post office. The Final Determination was posted 9/29/11, (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.

1) We believe the U.S. Postal Service fails to consider the effect of the closing on our Woodstock community. Even though we are small, the law says we are to receive equal services to larger cities. The USPS should not unfairly shutter post offices, especially those in

small and rural service areas. The principle behind the Postal Service is that it serves all Americans, no matter where they live. The small savings that comes from closing these offices is not worth the high cost to our communities." → This is a quote from a letter to us from our Senator Al Franken (see letter attached). Franken also states, "Especially in rural areas, post offices serve as a focal point for communities. The Postal Service is also part of our national heritage." In Woodstock, we will lose a sense of "community"

2) We in Woodstock believe the USPS has failed to consider whether or not it will continue to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community. In Woodstock we are not "buying into" the USPS's claims that a

rural mail carrier can give us the same quality of service. We think this is a rationalization by Patrick Donahoe, USPS head, and that he should not think he can bluff us into thinking that by closing our post offices, that he can save money for the USPS — yah! small change and peanuts!

3) I have looked at the dollar amounts lost by the Woodstock Post Office, and it is a drop in the bucket. We believe the USPS has failed to adequately consider the economic savings resulting from the closure. How? By insisting that closing our post office for small change and peanuts. That's how! USPS officials are breaking the law by "inadequately considering the economic savings vs. the size of the loss to our community.

**Gary Ambrose, Adm**

**From:** noreply@franken.senate.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2011 1:12 PM  
**To:** gary.a@newlifetreatment.com  
**Subject:** Reply from Senator Franken

AL FRANKEN  
MINNESOTA

SENATE  
SM-220  
203.224.6644

**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303

November 15, 2011

Dear Gary,

Thank you for contacting me about the Postal Service. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this important matter.

The Postal Service is an integral part of life in Minnesota. We have post offices in every corner of the state, and the Postal Service employs more than 13,000 people in Minnesota alone. Especially in rural areas, post offices serve as a focal point for communities. The Postal Service is also part of our national heritage. The Constitution explicitly authorizes Congress to establish post offices and the Postal Service has been in continual operation since 1792.

The 1970 Postal Reorganization Act made the Postal Service into an independent corporation-like entity, the United States Postal Service (USPS). This means that the Postal Service receives no tax dollars and is completely self-funded. A steady decline in mail volumes over the past few decades led to sizeable financial losses for USPS and forced the agency to take a hard look at its operations. USPS has since undergone major changes to get its fiscal house in order. It has streamlined its business, reducing its workforce by 200,000 employees and cutting administrative costs. While the job loss is regrettable, I believe USPS took necessary steps to make itself sustainable.

However, I am concerned by some proposals that drastically restructure USPS by cutting services, closing post offices, and reducing worker benefits. I oppose switching to a five-day delivery schedule, which will put a damper on commerce and prevent people from receiving important deliveries, such as prescription medications, over the weekend. Likewise, I oppose attempts to unfairly shutter post offices, especially those in small and rural service areas. The principle behind the Postal Service is that it serves all Americans, no matter where they live. The small savings that comes from closing these offices is not worth the high cost to our communities.

I have heard from local officials, business owners, and postal employees, as well as individual constituents across Minnesota, who are deeply concerned about the effects that USPS cutbacks and possible closures could have on their communities. In September 2011, I wrote to Patrick Donahoe, the head of USPS, to share these concerns and request that he work with local communities to reduce the negative impacts of any cutback.

Thank you again for contacting me, and please don't hesitate to do so in the future regarding this or any other matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

11/18/2011