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BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

CAROLINA, WV 26563
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No: A2011-95

JACK A. FULLER Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the CAROLINA, WV post office. The Final Determination was posted SEPT 4, 2011 to OCT 4, 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.

SEE ATTACHED LETTER

Box 65
Carolina, WV 26563
October 27, 2011

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

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a direct response to my appeal the closing of the Carolina, WV Post Office. As stated in my previous letter, it is unlawful to close our office for purposes of financial reasons, which seemed to be the main reason stated in the Final Determination letter. According to Title 39 Section 101 (b) of the US Code, "The Postal Service shall provide maximum degrees of effective regular postal service to rural areas and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. NO SMALL POST OFFICE SHALL BE CLOSED SOLELY FOR OPERATING AT A DEFICIT, it being the specific intent of the Congress that *effective* postal services be insured to resident of both urban and rural communities."

Our appeal is Docket A2011-95 and the names on the enclosed petition would like to go on record as requesting a waiver from filing electronically. *Nowhere in the process, from the original letter of study, the six-page Final Determination letter, and the five-page appeal letter sent to me, did it notify the patrons of this office about filing online for our comments to be "official."* Only after the appeal was made and a postcard campaign was launched did the residents find out that basically those comments went to an obscure file. It is ironic that the Postal Service won't accept the comments sent via the Post Office and prefers us to use the Internet! That being said, this petition reiterates that want our voices heard **for the record** and **ALL 270+ signatures request a waiver from filing electronically.** Keep in mind, the Carolina Post Office has 185 boxholders, according to your study.

As also evident by the enclosed petition, the majority of the community doesn't believe we will have effective service provided if we are to replace our Post Office with rural route delivery and cluster boxes. I will list the many reasons and argue points made in the Final Determination:

- 1) One glaring inaccuracy provided by the Postal Service in their two letters to the residents is that Worthington is 1.8 miles away and Idamay is 1.6 miles away. Worthington is actually 3.4 miles from Carolina and Idamay is 3.1. **This is significant since there is one main way in and out of town and the residents drive one mile down the steep Carolina Hill just to get to Route 218.** Only after that do we travel a few miles in either direction to get to Worthington or Idamay. Obviously, the distance was miscalculated.
- 2) We believe that we are a unique community in that our town is not even a throughway. We are isolated on a hill and the way into town is up the very steep Carolina Hill, which is reputable for being very treacherous in the winter. It is a

big factor in the travels of many of our residents, especially senior citizens. **Please note that Carolina is a community heavily populated with senior citizens.** In winter, often times our snow-covered hill is not even treated in a timely manner by the State Road, especially when school is called off (which can be quite often). This delays many trips out of town, especially for our senior citizens or residents that have no vehicles (and there are several). The main road off Route 218 could be clear and Carolina Hill can remain snow-covered for days. This is a huge factor for consideration if we residents are expected to have to go to the Post Office for any reason, many which I will cover in my next points.

- 3) We are promised by the law that we will get effective Postal Service. Yet how do we get more effective service than the face-to-face transactions in “real” time we are getting now with an office in which we can all easily walk?
- Unless we anticipate meeting a carrier on his route, certified and registered letters (accountable mail) will either have to be picked up the next day after we sign for them, (not very timely), or at The Worthington Post Office. Will the driver come to each of our houses—doubtful. When we walk into our office now, the clerk hands us our retrieval slip and we sign for our letter or packages and receive them right THEN and it is just that simple. There is no way it could be that simple with route delivery unless we are lucky enough to intercept the driver!
 - We have a main road through town, however most residents live on Streets 1st through 7th, with those roads going straight uphill. There is also 8th Street, Maple Street and Pine Street to consider, and they are also offshoots of the main road. These roads are sometimes impassable with a snowfall and a rural route driver will not be traveling the multiple side streets in Carolina (where the majority of people live), in the wintertime, *if ever*. Isn't that correct? Will a route driver be traveling up and down every street in Carolina, in any weather, to try and obtain signatures for accountable mail or to drop off oversize packages? We don't think so!
 - When we need money orders or stamps, we will have to leave money for the carrier in our boxes, however, what if he has already left for the day? That means waiting another day or making another trip down the road in our vehicles, **whereas everyone in town could easily walk to the Carolina Post Office**. It is inconceivable that anyone would walk to the Post Offices in Idamay or Worthington and with gas prices, why should we ever have to leave town just to go to a Post Office or have to wait until we are going out of town to mail or pick up something? Accountable mail to be picked up and packages over 13 ounces would have to be taken to the neighboring offices as well. We can't leave all of our packages on our porches for the carrier, can we? Again, most residents are older and Click and Ship from the Internet will not be a viable option for them.
 - If you will refer to many of the residents' letters (many of them written to Charleston, WV), you will see that some of our seniors main concerns are their prescription medications. Not only do they worry about their safety, **as vandalism occurs quite often in our community**, but the fact that

cluster boxes don't provide temperature control like our current Post Office. In extreme heat or cold this could be harmful to our medications, especially if they will be out in the elements if a resident weren't able to retrieve their mail in a timely manner.

- Another concern is going to the Worthington Post Office (the hub that I understand our carrier will work from, as opposed to the Idamay office). We would have to go here for any type of service (to retrieve mail or our packages that the rural driver won't/can't deliver) and the parking situation there is inadequate and hazardous, especially for the handicapped. **There are many that use the easily accessible handicapped space in Carolina**, but Worthington provides theirs on a very busy two-way street just outside the office. Their parking situation for the handicapped is dangerous on that busy stretch of road and that is a huge concern of the residents. The smaller lot below the office may be less dangerous (although I doubt it is very clear from snow removal in the winter), however there is no handicapped parking in that area. With the extra traffic from our residents, traffic would be even more congested on this street, where customers park on both sides of it. Our other choice is to go to Idamay for mail deliver, however, we would then have to pay box rent, another bad choice for many of the residents who are on a fixed income.

4) In the Final Determination it is noted that our postmaster retired and our revenue has dropped in the Carolina office. However, it was well-known that our postmaster retired after *40 years of service from the post office*. I would imagine that the clerks that have since replaced her don't make the salary of a 40-year veteran, which would most likely even out in the ratio of payroll to revenue. Can this be confirmed or denied? The letter implies that the office lost money but it would seem that they had to be saving more than they are losing because of the differences in salaries. Also, the Carolina Improvement Association, Greater Marion Public Service District, Carolina Head Start, Shiloh Baptist Church and Carolina Methodist Church deal exclusively with our office.

5) On April 21, 2011, it says a representative came to the post office to answer questions and provide information to the customers. As the 70 customers on the lawn can attest, **no questions were answered adequately and no information was provided that wasn't stated in the initial letter!** We were provided with a generic response that "this office is under study."

6) As for the financial analysis, I question how that study was done. Was it an arbitrary week during the year or was it a running average of the sales of several weeks/months (which would be more indicative of an accurate financial picture). I would like to be provided with this information,

although according to the law that should have no bearing on the closing of the office.

We are a town with a population of 411 residents as of the 2010 U.S. Census. **Note that the majority of the box holders have signed this letter.** Again, we are heavily populated with senior citizens. As for the Postal Service mentioning we have no postmaster, a less populated neighboring community doesn't have a postmaster either; however, they are not targeted for closing.

Carolina residents were provided opportunities to write letters in behalf of saving the Post Office and many did. However, by the time the third letter was requested to be written to the Postal Commission in order to save this office, most residents, *however angered by this decision*, had given up to the point that they thought it would no longer do any good. The ones that did persist received letters that told them, ONCE AGAIN, to file online or write yet another letter in order for it to be counted. Why wasn't the Postal Service/Postal Commission upfront with this information? Isn't this the exact intention of the higher-ups in the Post Office with their uninformative meetings and countless requests to send in letters of concern? To psychologically wear out the people until they give up? This is not only a community of senior citizens but it also has a share of people with low incomes. Not everyone has access to a computer and even the ones that do may not be able to navigate the site to file online.

I speak on behalf of many of my neighbors when I say that **we vigorously protest this closing.** Again, **at the April meeting, 70 of the townspeople showed up in the middle of the afternoon and on a weekday only to be given no adequate answers and no reasons for the closing of this office.** Why then, would you expect them to continue a letter writing campaign in hopes that it would be heard, when a human being on the front lawn of the Carolina Post Office practically dismissed every comment that was being aired? No question was answered to anyone's satisfaction!

Enclosed you will find a petition that lists the signatures of those that share these concerns and want our comments posted for the official record and WE ARE ALL requesting a waiver from filing electronically. The citizens of Carolina are entitled to the same **efficient** postal service provided to our counterparts in urban areas. *It is the law.* WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT CLUSTER BOXES AND A ROUTE DRIVE WILL EFFICIENTLY SERVE OUR NEEDS AND WANT TO KEEP OUR POST OFFICE SERVICE AS IS.

Sincerely,

Jack Fuller

EnclosuresS

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YOUR LABEL NUMBER	SERVICE	STATUS OF YOUR ITEM	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	FEATURES
70101670000156124847	Priority Mail®	Delivered	October 31, 2011, 11:59 am	WASHINGTON, DC 20268	Expected Delivery By: October 29, 2011 Certified Mail™
		Arrival at Unit	October 31, 2011, 9:04 am	WASHINGTON, DC 20022	
		Dispatched to Sort Facility	October 27, 2011, 3:45 pm	CAROLINA, WV 26563	
		Acceptance	October 27, 2011, 2:43 pm	CAROLINA, WV 26563	

Check on Another Item

What's your label (or receipt) number?



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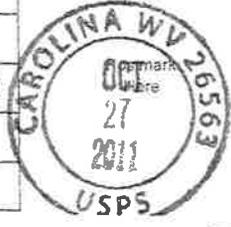
7010 1670 0001 5612 4847

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Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	2.30
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$ 10.10



Sent To	Postal Regulatory Commission
Street, A or PO Box	901 New York Ave NW
City, State	Suite 200 Washington, DC 20268-0001
PS Form	4100

Regarding Docket A2011-95: The undersigned would like to request a waiver of signature from filing electronically to the US Postal Commission, opposing the closing of the Carolina, WV Post Office.

PETITION NOT TO CLOSE THE CAROLINA, WV POST OFFICE

We, the citizens and customers of the Carolina Post Office, hereby protest the closing of this office. We have many concerns, among them the sanctity of the mail and the inconvenience your proposal present to us in delivering to cluster boxes, particularly accountable mail. Citing the Law in U.S. Code Title 39, Section 101b, "The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. **No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal service be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities.**" We do not feel your proposal addressing our concerns meet the criteria.

Print Name	Address	Signature
Gene & Julie Hartley		Gene & Julie Hartley
Ben & Elaine Reynolds		Ben & Elaine Reynolds
ROBERT BONASSO		Robert Bonasso
Nellie Dennis		Nellie Dennis
Renee Goines		Renee N. Goines
David Weidner		David Weidner
Jack A. Fuller		Jack A. Fuller
JEFFREY T. ELLYSON		Jeffrey T. Elyson
Patsy & ERMA Calkins		Patsy & ERMA Calkins
Rollie & Helen		Rollie & Helen
James M. Whitman		James M. Whitman
Charlotte Brown		Charlotte Brown
Marguerite Black		Marguerite Black
Ruth Mearns		Ruth Mearns
Darrell Mearns		Darrell Mearns
Paul Starkey		DAVE STARKEY
Jerry Lee		Jerry Lee
Marlene Sandy		Marlene Sandy
Barry Fitch		Barry Fitch
TIM & BARBARA BARILLO		Tim & Barbara Barillo
AURORA COON		Aurora Coon
Landra Robert Ascraft		Landra Robert Ascraft
Ronald J. Dennis		Ronald J. Dennis
Charles Marstiller		Charles Marstiller
ANISHA ALAN & KASHA		Anisha Alan & Kasha

Print Name	Address	Signature
Tametta James		Tametta James
Lamar James		Lamar James
Kenny James		Kenny James
Devin Miller		Devin Miller
Tarig Miller		Tarig Miller
Mendell Miller		Mendell Miller
Blaine Reynolds		Blaine Reynolds
Ben Reynolds		Benjamin Reynolds
Charlotte Norbury		Charlotte Norbury
Steven Turner		Steven Turner
Miriam Stoen		Miriam Stoen
Eda Starks		Eda B. Starks
St. Hill Baptist Church		Eda B. Starks Trustee
Arrie Gancey		Arrie Gancey
Richard Gancey		Richard Gancey
Othalean Thomas		Othalean Thomas
Betty Bolden		Betty Bolden
Evelyn Smith		Evelyn Smith
Charles Miller		Charles Miller
Lanier Weatherston		Lanier Weatherston
Wanna Weatherston		Wanna Weatherston
William Hairston		William Hairston
Harry Steptoe Sr		HARRY STEPTOE SR
FRANK L STARKS		FRANK L STARKS
ANTHONY STARKS		ANTHONY STARKS
Winfred Hairston		Winfred Hairston
Marcus Lewis		Marcus Lewis
Lillian Howard		Lillian Howard
Howard Hayes		Howard Hayes
Tanya Brown		Tanya Brown
Ethel Taylor		Ethel M TAYLOR
Caleb Shook		Caleb Shook
Melba Shook		Melba Shook
Kylea Smith		Melba Shook
Maeyn Smith		Melba Shook
Christina Smith		Melba Shook
Kyza Smith		Melba Shook
Tiffany Christopher		Tiffany Christopher
Lois Sarsfield		Lois Sarsfield
Tammy Cochran		Tammy Cochran
Cecilia Kluhoety		Cecilia Kluhoety
Jaret Greenes		Jaret Greenes
Bessie Brown		Bessie Brown

12

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Print Name	Address	Signature
Rowan Jones		Rowan Jones
Ada B. Smith		Ada B. Smith
Rou in Debbis Cynthia		Rou in Debbis Cynthia
Janice Williams		Janice Williams
Paul M. Johnson		Paul M. Johnson
Anthony Johnson		Anthony Johnson
Jim Zickler		Jim Zickler
Walter Barak		Walter Barak
Sharon Martin		Sharon Martin
Bill Taylor		Bill Taylor
Sandra Moore		Sandra Moore
Madonna Galford		Madonna Galford
Brian Galford		Brian Galford
Jason Cowger		Jason Cowger
Erna M. Lakin		Erna M. Lakin
Shockey Maylie		Shockey Maylie
Patricia		Patricia
David J. Cook		David J. Cook
Clance Menelle		Clance Menelle
Willie Young		Willie Young
Patricia Taylor		Patricia Taylor
STEVE MAYLIE		Steve Maylie
Christine S. Hall		Christine S. Hall
Shanda Campbell		Shanda Campbell
Ashley Mills		Ashley Mills
Frank Y. Ice		Frank Y. Ice
Debra Bearden		Debra Bearden
Michelle		Michelle
Eric A. Hanks		Eric A. Hanks
Joey Hartley		Joey Hartley
Tracy Robinson		Tracy Robinson
ROGER RAINES		Roger Raines
VICKI RUSSELL		Vicki Russell
Ronald Gore		Ronald Gore
Shannon Gore		Shannon Gore
Shawn Heaton		Shawn Heaton
Lynda Tulavinski		Lynda Tulavinski
DENISE RIFE		Denise Rife
JAMES LAMPKI		James Lampki
DEE BONASSO		Dee Bonasso

Print Name	Address	Signature
AMMY RIFFLE		AMMY RIFFLE
STEVE GOTT		Stephen Gott
Kevin Herron		Kevin Herron
Patricia Herron		Patricia Herron
Julie		Julie
Kevin Hines		Kevin Hines
Sylvester Miller		Sylvester Miller
Joe Michael		Joe Michael
Kathleen Brown		Kathleen Brown
MARIE JEFFERS		Marie Jeffers
Mimi Tennant		Mimi Tennant
Corrina Marbury		Corrina Marbury
Willie Marbury Jr		Willie Marbury Jr
John A. Gulerio		John A. Gulerio
Misty Hester		Misty Hester
Coastal Samson		Coastal Samson
John Jones		John Jones
Sharon Cottrell		Sharon Cottrell
RYAN COTTRELL		RYAN COTTRELL
Ruth E Lemley		Ruth E Lemley
JACK R LEMLEY		JACK R LEMLEY
Jessie Tennant		Jessie Tennant
Nikki Tennant		Nikki Tennant
Jamie Hamrick		Jamie Hamrick
HARDIE BAYLOR		HARDIE BAYLOR
WILLIE MARDLEY		WILLIE MARDLEY
Charlotte Marbury		Charlotte Marbury
CLARENCE TURNER		CLARENCE TURNER
Maggie Sker		Maggie Sker
Bill Dumas		Bill Dumas
Carl M. Cornick		Carl M. Cornick
FEED FORD		FEED FORD
Tom & Kim Lee		Tom & Kim Lee
Virginia Funder		Virginia Funder
Valerie Koldes		Valerie Koldes
Lou Koldes		Lou Koldes
Amarda Simons		Amarda Simons
Daniel & Kimon		Daniel & Kimon
FRANKIE JONES JR		FRANKIE JONES JR
Tracy Jones		Tracy Jones
Terry Lemley		Terry Lemley
Ischell Lee		Ischell Lee

Box 65
Carolina, WV 26563
November 29, 2011

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
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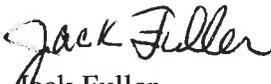
Shoshana Grove
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Ms. Grove,

This is a letter regarding Docket No. A2011-95, an appeal to keep the Carolina, WV Post Office open. In the November 22, 2011 letter that was sent to the Carolina WV Post Office, from the Postal Service, it inaccurately says that I have not filed a form 61 as requested. Not only did I file it, along with the four page letter that was sent below, but it was received through USPS Certified Mail with a return receipt on Oct. 31, 11:56 AM, several days before it was due. (A copy of that receipt is enclosed). The Postal Service states the same reasons for closing as usual, with complete disregard for the petition that was sent with over 200 signatures. The reason I sent it as a hard copy instead of doing it online was that I wanted to be sure the Postal Commission received the original signatures of the patrons. The community holds firm in its stand, citing that the reasons in the original enclosed letter for wanting to keep the Carolina Post Office open.

As per my telephone conversation with Rand Costich today, I understand that my Form 61 *was* received in a timely manner, Oct. 31, despite what the letter posted in the Carolina Post Office said. He agreed that the posted letter was inaccurate and I asked that a new one be written and re-posted by Nov. 30 that acknowledges I followed the Postal timeline as instructed. Should that make their reply null and void? Again, I want a response that acknowledges that my letter, Form 61 and the town petition was received on Oct. 31, several days before it was due.

Sincerely,


Jack Fuller

Enclosures