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BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

BOLES, AR 72926
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No: A2012-37

RONNIE D. & LYNDA G. LANGLEY, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the BOLES, AR post office. The Final Determination was posted 09/29/2011.
(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 DISCUSSION.

- a) We receive packages, almost daily, that are too large to fit into post office boxes, or rural route mail boxes. We pick up these packages at the post office counter.
- b) All of my medications and most of my wife's medications come through the mail. All of these medications require delivery confirmation, and many require signatures. Many other Boles postal customers also depend on USPS for delivery of controlled medications and other medical supplies.
- c) We would be quite uncomfortable having merchandise and medications left in, or by, a mail box located on a major U.S. highway. Anything requiring signatures will necessitate an approximately 20 mile round trip. Many other Boles customers would require a round trip in excess of 45 miles if service was moved to Waldron.
- d) Both Boles and Parks post offices are being considered for closure. These two post offices serve a very large geographical area with many patrons who will be seriously impacted. If, in fact, there is not enough mail volume to support both offices, it would seem logical to combine them into one post office. The post office with the smallest number of customer and the lowest volume of mail might be merged with the post office having the larger number of customers and largest volume of mail. This would appear to result in the least impact on the majority of the Boles and Parks customers.
- e) The cost of operation for the Boles post office has been calculated based on an assigned postmaster. The Boles post office has not had a postmaster for over two years. The Boles post office is operated by an OIC that is salaried at a level well below that of a postmaster and who receives no benefits. We would suggest that the Boles post office continue operation as a postal facility under the oversight of the Waldron postmaster, if a postmaster is required.
- f) As a business practice, we wonder why the Boles post office building was never purchased outright rather than being leased. During its period of operation the cost of purchase would have been amortized long ago and be an asset rather than a continuing cost liability to the USPS.
- g) As we understand, if all proposed post office closures take place, Scott County will be reduced to having only two operational post offices. These post offices will have to serve an 898 square mile primarily rural area, with a total population exceeding 11,000 people.
- h) We are not opposed to the elimination of Saturday mail delivery, especially within rural communities. Large areas with heavy business concentration may be more greatly impacted; therefore, consideration should be given to partial elimination of Saturday mail delivery in rural areas.
- i) Growth projections within the state of Arkansas indicate that the western portion of the state, and particularly Scott County, are expected to experience moderate growth. A major

contributor to this growth is the construction of the interstate highway, I-49 which will pass through Scott County, and immediately adjacent to Boles. Upon completion, I-49 will become a major corridor traversing the United States from the Canadian border to overseas shipping ports located in New Orleans, LA. Due to its proximity to Boles, business and population growth along this major transportation corridor can logically be anticipated.

- j) Rather than conducting massive closures of rural post offices, it seems prudent to consider north to south positioning of post offices throughout all affected U.S. counties based on square miles and the number of customers served within a geographical area. If two post offices are located geographically too close, consolidation should be an option instead of the closure of both. Across the United States, this could still potentially result in a reduction of nearly 50% while minimizing the overall impact on a large percentage of the population.

Regards,

Handwritten signatures of Ronnie D. Langley and Lynda G. Langley in cursive script.

Ronnie D. Langley

Lynda G. Langley

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