

Mark J. Sexton
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February 15, 2012

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave. NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Re: Ashton, Iowa Post Office, Docket #A2012-097

Commissioners:

I am familiar with the procedural history of the contemplated closing of the U.S. Post Office in Ashton, Iowa, as well as the comments submitted by Brian D. Mino, President of the Ashton State Bank in opposition to such contemplated closing.

As a director, officer and investor in a number of rural Iowa banks, I can attest to the fact that towns of modest size in Iowa are one of the great assets of our nation. Such communities provide all the opportunities our forefathers ordained in creating this nation, leaving the residents there unfettered access to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In my experience, certain institutions in those towns provide the basis for this freedom - namely, churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, main street businesses, a sound bank, and yes, a post office. Closing a post office is a serious threat to the vibrancy of a town, and should only be undertaken where the post office operates at a loss or there is some compelling reason for the closure.

There is no compelling reason to close the Ashton, Iowa Post Office. In fact, the Bank would be willing to cooperate with the U.S. Postal Service to continue to provide postal services to the Town of Ashton and it's residents. For this reason, I object to the contemplated closing and ask that you recommend that the U.S. Postal Service contact Mr. Mino and the City of Ashton forthwith to make arrangements for the continued existence of the Ashton, Iowa Post Office.

Respectfully,

Mark J. Sexton

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