

COMMENTS FROM THE UPS STORES #2853 AND #4941

July 30, 2012

Postal Regulatory Commission

901 New York Ave NW, Ste 200

Washington, D. C. 20268

Reference: PRC Docket # MC2012-26

Dear Commissioners,

As the owner of two The UPS Stores in Hot Springs, AR, I am writing to ask that you disallow the United States Post Office's "enhanced" services to Post Office Box customers.

Our locations employ both students and other adults and our services are a benefit to their communities. The specific services of concern to me include:

1. Acceptance of third-party parcels and other items from UPS, FedEx, DHL, and other non-USPS carriers, a practice that has been prohibited for many years.
2. The new ability to use the street address of the Post Office where the Post Office Box is located, rather than the conventional "PO Box 123, Anytown, AR 01234."
3. The new ability of Post Office Box customers to use the "#123 designation instead of the conventional "PO Box 123" form of address.
4. Email/text message notification to PO Box customers of items received (Real Mail Notification).

These new practices place the United States Postal Service in direct and unequal competition with thousands of small businesses across the country. Store owners, myself included, privately own our businesses and we depend on the revenues they generate to support ourselves, our families, and our employees and their families. In my case and those of many other business owners, we secure loans for our businesses with our homes unlike the government. Without a doubt, competition from the USPS will significantly threaten my businesses, my livelihood and my home, and the jobs of the people I employ. As a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency (CMRA), we operate under other unfair rules. Unlike USPS postal box customers who can redirect their mail with a simple "Change of Address" Form, our customers are prohibited from doing so. When a CMRA mailbox customer moves, we are required by the USPS to receive and hold the customer's mail for six months following termination, and cannot remail it without paying for new postage. As noted in PRC Order No. 1366, "the Postal Service Has not submitted an appropriate filing that describes the nature and implementing rules for these enhanced services." The USPS failed to follow the rules in rolling out these new services, and made a unilateral decision and executed it without the necessary filings. What the USPS is doing is fundamentally wrong. A financially viable Post Office is an important part of our business, but not at our expense. I cannot sit by and watch the USPS launch a series of products and services specifically designed to take our customers. A relationship with the USPS is a delicate balance of competition and support, and in this instance they have unfairly tipped the scales.

Thank you for your time and kind attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you questions or concern.

Sincerely

Charles Dante

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