

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

NOTICE OF MARKET-DOMINANT
PRICE ADJUSTMENT

DOCKET NO. R2013-1

COMMENTS OF DAVID B. POPKIN

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Respectfully submitted,

PRCCOMMENTS20131

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The Postal Service is proposing to eliminate the sale of an Outbound International Reply Coupon ["IRC"]. They claim that the volume and revenue for this service have steadily declined over the years. The Postal Service should be required to show the specific data before being allowed to discontinue this service.

There is one use for an IRC that I would like to present to the Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission. I am one of some 750-thousand plus Amateur Radio Operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission¹. Many of these ham radio operators are interested in making contacts with other amateur radio operators all over the world. After making these contacts, many of the operators will exchange QSL cards.² These cards are exchanged either to provide a written souvenir of the radio contact and/or for documentation in obtaining various amateur radio certificates and awards.

For example, yesterday I made my first contact with an amateur radio station operating in Kosovo. Kosovo was one of the last three amateur radio countries/jurisdictions that I have not made contact with. QSL cards for this contact are being supplied by an amateur radio operator in Finland. Since the station in Kosovo has probably made

¹ See www.hamdata.com

² A printed or picture post card that provides written confirmation of the radio contact

several thousand radio contacts this past weekend, the necessity of providing compensation to the individual in Finland for his postage will fall on me.

The only practical way to provide this compensation for the postage is to include an IRC with my request for the Kosovo QSL card. I don't have a supply of postage stamps from Finland nor do I know what the postage rates are. International money orders and transfers are prohibitively expensive. The only reasonable solution is the IRC.

I would like to Postal Service to reconsider their request to discontinue this service. One possible solution would be to have the Outbound IRC sold by the Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City.

I would also like to confirm that United States Post Offices will continue to redeem Inbound International Reply Coupons at the then current one ounce letter rate to a foreign country.

The Postal Service is proposing to expand the credit card authentication fee so that it applies to all credit card authentications, rather than just those for filing a Change-of-Address request. The term "authentication" requires clarification. What other activities will require the authentication fee? In any case I would like confirmation that if I go into the post office today and buy a sheet of 20 Forever stamps and pay for it with my credit card, that the card will only be charged for the \$9.00 postage value of the stamps and will not have the additional authentication fee.