

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

NOTICE OF MARKET-DOMINANT
PRICE ADJUSTMENT

DOCKET NO. R2013-1

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OF DAVID B. POPKIN

November 7, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

PRCCOMMENTS20131A

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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.

On November 6, 2012, the Postal Service responded to Question 1[b] of the Chairman's Information Request No. 6 by stating that services such as money orders and online payment services may serve as alternatives to International Outbound Reply Coupons.

The Postal Service's suggested alternatives are not practical. To use the example that I used in my original comments, namely, to provide for the postage for an individual in Finland to mail me a radio confirmation card. The IRC provides a very simple solution to the desire. The total cost presently is \$2.20 and the individual in Finland will be able to take the IRC to his local post office and obtain the necessary stamps to mail me the desired confirmation.

Without the IRC, I would have to determine what the appropriate Finish postage would be for a letter to the US, determine the appropriate exchange rate, and then somehow get that value to the individual in Finland. International Money Orders sold by the Post Office may only be sent to 29 countries as indicated in Section 371.2 of the International

Mail Manual. Finland is not one of these 29 countries. Even if it was available, the present cost for the money order would be \$4.45 fee plus approximately \$1 for the value of the money order. This would be some 2-1/2 times the cost of using an IRC.

My belief is that the use of Online Payment Services would require that both parties are participants in that service.

I called my local Bank of America branch and they indicated that they had no practical way of send a dollar or two to Finland.