

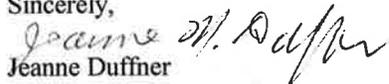
Dear Mr. Taub,

I am writing to beg your attention to the matter of closing the Careywood, Idaho post office, docket #A2015-2. This would be very expensive and a hardship to many of us. For instance, I now drive 2 miles to our post office. Going to Athol would be 10 miles one way. In addition to the added gas expense, simply getting there can be a problem. This isn't potato-farm country, we are in the Selkirk Range of the Rocky Mountains. Our winter weather is treacherous. The road to Athol has a very steep and often icy stretch at Granite Hill, and dangerously fast traffic. Many of our older drivers just can't, or are afraid to, drive it. Many of our poor folk can't afford the gas - and we have quite a few poor folk. This is not a wealthy community.

The post office has been the center of our community for decades. These days, it's the only center of our community. Our postmaster, Carrie Bartelt, has increased efficiency, made more services available, improved the interior so that it actually looks and performs like a post office (instead of a bank of P.O. boxes in somebody's house, which is what it was like before Carrie), and has rapidly become indispensable to our community. Closing the post office will effectively wipe Careywood off the map, and add much hardship. There is nobody in this community who would not be adversely affected. Those of us who are writing speak for many who object but won't write. We had over 460-something signatures on the petition Carrie put together - and our population is around 500.

We plead for your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Duffner

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Office of PAGR