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**Postal Regulatory Commission**  
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July 21, 2016

Re: Docket IM2016-1

Dear Chairperson Taub, Vice Chairperson Langley, and Commissioners Hammond and Acton:

As Editor of EcommerceBytes.com, a newsletter for online sellers, I follow postal rates closely. Shipping is a major issue for our readers, and shipping costs directly impact their margins and profitability.

When the USPS proposes rate changes, the Commission is required to review them to ensure they conform to the law. I would ask the Commission to consider whether UPU Terminal Dues are treated the same as proposed USPS rates for market dominant products.

Terminal Dues should be required to be equal to equivalent domestic postage not only for industrialized countries, but for ecommerce goods from Asia as well.

Knowing that domestic mailers are subsidizing foreign mailers who use the same postal infrastructure, but who do not contribute to the Postal Service's institutional costs, is not only upsetting in principle; it harms many US merchants, particularly small online sellers.

The USPS Inspector General said in a December 15th report that inexpensive deliveries from China may potentially penalize domestic retailers. Based on my extensive knowledge of ecommerce as well as what I hear from online sellers, I believe that is absolutely the case.

I would also ask whether the ePacket rates that the USPS negotiates bilaterally with other countries' postal services such as China Post are required to conform to the law with regard to market dominant products, and I ask why there is no transparency into these agreements.

I'd also like to express my dismay upon hearing from numerous readers the difficulties with which they had in trying to post a comment to this docket, citing out-of-date instructions and unnecessary complexity. Some abandoned the process as a result.

I would also like to thank Mary Hanks, Dockets Assistant at the PRC, for her assistance to our readers who had difficulties this week as the deadline for submitting comments loomed.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Ina Steiner  
Editor and Publisher of EcommerceBytes.com