

Patrick Donahoe
Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington DC 20260-3100

November 9, 2011

Dear Mr. Donahoe,

During this puzzling process of closing down rural post offices, it is easy for those who want to pursue that course of action to view it as an accounting exercise. The USPS is a public institution with public requirements of service unique to its historic mission. So while proper efficiencies, including the return of many billions in overpayments, which do not contradict its missions are entirely appropriate—and we know some examples as do others—the USPS is *not* just another business.

During our last meeting, we discussed feedback which you said you welcome. So please take a minute or two to read the enclosed description, by a very fine, long standing community group, of a meeting with your representatives at the Eagan Baptist Church in very rural Tennessee. And please pass this on with any comments you may wish to make, to your subordinates.

You should know that we have supported Marie Cirillo's selfless and successful community work in Tennessee for many years.

A curious inquiry: why have you not responded to my letters and calls regarding a simple request to report publically on your successful revenue expansion ideas? You said when you assumed the position of Postmaster General that you were going to sell Postal services vigorously. Let us and the general public learn what the Postal Service has succeeded in doing and plans to do in this regard. Has *Express mail* started to get a larger market share, for example?

Empathize deeply with the plight of rural people and the loss of the physical federal presence of the local post offices in their communities. People in rural communities have relied on for a long, long time. Build them up, rather than close them down. Your imagination and ideas should rejuvenate the USPS! I hope you saw the enclosed letter from the Appleseed Foundation, whose Board is composed of leading corporate lawyers, regarding reimplementing the Postal Savings System. A copy is attached.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph Nader

CC: Ruth Goldway and interested parties

PO Box 19312
Washington, D.C. 20036

P.S. Your Temple Heights branch at Florida and Connecticut, Washington D.C., Northwest should remain open. Users are astonished at it even being on the list and are ready to oppose its closing. You are pricing PO Boxes out of the market there and elsewhere.