



September 18, 2012

The Honorable Joseph D. Courtney  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0702

Dear Congressman Courtney:

This responds to your August 13 letter to Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe, regarding the Yantic Post Office.

I understand your concerns about the emergency suspension of postal operations at the Yantic Post Office, and I recognize your interest in ensuring that all of your constituents continue to have convenient access to essential postal services. Please note that emergency suspensions of postal facilities are not rare, and this was not an isolated or unique situation to Yantic. Across the country, Post Offices are suspended for a myriad of reasons due to factors ranging from natural disasters and revocation of leases to personnel issues and loss of utilities. When a suspension occurs, alternate service is provided as quickly as possible and a plan of action for a permanent solution is developed. Such plans can result in the reopening of the suspended facility or the establishment of a new facility; however, they can also result in a decision to propose the discontinuance of the suspended Post Office.

As you are aware, postal operations at the Yantic Post Office were suspended on February 6 due to the safety, health, and security concerns of our employees and customers in Yantic. Officials with the Connecticut Valley District Safety Office found multiple areas of concern including potential electrical, fire, and safety hazards; potential exposure to hazardous materials such as asbestos and carbon monoxide; code violations; water damage; and structural damage to the closet, doors, windows, and workroom and bathroom floors. Additionally, the facility lacks access to a secondary exit during an emergency situation.

Page 2

Since the emergency suspension, Yantic customers have been provided Post Office box and retail services from the Bozarah Post Office, located 1.2 miles from Yantic. Residents' mailing addresses remain the same despite the operational changes. District officials informed us that they are currently in the process of scheduling a community meeting to discuss interim steps and permanent solutions with regard to providing postal services to the Yantic community moving forward. You will be notified by the district once the meeting has been scheduled.

Please be assured that the Postal Service is working to ensure that Yantic customers continue to receive regular and effective service.

Thank you for writing. If I can be of assistance in other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,

**(signed)**

Darrell Donnelly  
Government Relations Representative