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Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service
475 Lenfant Plaza Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

Many post offices in my home state of Kansas and across the country are currently or will soon be studied for viability and profitability. Post offices serve a vital economic role in many of the communities that I represent. While the service is important to communities across our country, it is extremely important for rural residents.

If the U.S. Postal Service is attempting to discontinue services in these communities because the post offices do not make revenues in excess of expenses, my concern is with the possible violation of Section 101(b) of Title 39 of the United States Code. This section states: "The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No small post office shall be closed solely for operating at a deficit, it being the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal services be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities." Taking this into consideration, what is the justification for the USPS to close rural post offices?

Additionally, it is to my understanding that the Postal Regulatory Commission has found that maintaining rural post offices only amounts to 0.7% of the USPS's total budget. If these communities do lose access to their post office, I would like to know how the resulting savings would ultimately impact the Postal Service's financial crisis.

I sincerely recognize the situation that the Postal Service is facing, but I believe that reducing service to these communities will significantly impact rural citizens with little benefit to the Postal Service's bottom line. My constituents will be most affected by these decisions would like answers to the questions proposed in this letter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Very truly yours,


Jerry Moran

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