

AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

October 5, 2011

The Honorable Ruth Goldway, Chairwoman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

Dear Ms. Goldway,

We would appreciate inclusion of this letter in your formal record of comment on the U.S. Postal Service's proposal to close as many as 3,653 post offices. Throughout its history the United States Postal Service has provided an invaluable service across the country by ensuring that mail was delivered in a timely and affordable manner. We are aware of the grim fiscal condition of the Postal Service and the need to make changes in order to survive in today's competitive environment and adjust to the new means of communication in the 21st century.

However, we are very concerned about the large number of rural post offices in Colorado that are listed for potential closure. Of the 71 potential closures in Colorado, 61 are in our two congressional districts and mostly in what could be described as rural America. Our constituents are concerned that retail discontinuance of some of these post offices could negatively impact their own businesses, especially during these tough economic times. Additionally, we are concerned that closing certain facilities will lead to costly and time-consuming commutes. Traveling to distant postal facilities in the 3rd and 4th Congressional Districts during winter months could be extremely difficult, expensive and dangerous. Some post offices that appear to be in geographic proximity are in reality not readily accessible.

Finally, some of these post offices that seem to service a proportionately small population are essential to the existence of small isolated communities. The potential effect of these closures should involve significant consideration of the individual or unique characteristics of the respective communities served. If post office closures and consolidations are a necessary step in controlling costs, then we would like to see a more cost-effective model utilized, not one that focuses primarily on rural communities. In doing so, we would prefer to see a bottom-up approach that utilizes actual cost savings rather than a top-down approach focused on an arbitrary revenue figure.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider our comments. Moving forward please let us know if you have any questions or need any additional information. We look forward to working with you during our tenures in Congress.

Sincerely,


Cory Gardner
Member of Congress
Colorado's 4th District


Scott Tipton
Member of Congress
Colorado's 3rd District