

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2011

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Room 10804
Washington, DC 20260-3500

Dear Mr. Donahoe:

I write to express my concern over the lack of communication and outreach to local communities by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to determine post offices' consolidation and closures.

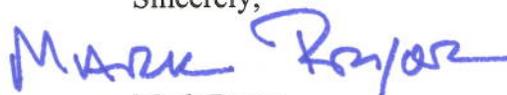
Clearly, the USPS faces a significant challenge in balancing fiscal viability while maintaining a high service standard. However, elected officials and constituents throughout the State of Arkansas have repeatedly noted a lack of transparency from the USPS regarding both the criteria for closure and notification of the public comment period. Significant steps must be taken to improve the outreach process and ensure that the people of Arkansas are given every opportunity to provide input in USPS' consolidation and closure proposals that affect their communities.

In an effort to provide the most up-to-date information to my constituents, I ask that you provide detailed responses to the following questions by Wednesday, March 23, 2011:

1. How does USPS notify community leaders and citizens of consolidation or closure proposals?
2. How much notice is given when a community meeting has been scheduled to discuss consolidation or closing?
3. What are the criteria that would make a post office eligible for consolidation or closure?
4. Is this criteria applied consistently throughout the United States?
5. How does USPS calculate the profitability for a post office, and how do the profits of Arkansas post offices compare with similarly situated post offices in the region and nationally?
6. What are the proposed savings from consolidation or closure of post offices in Arkansas?

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Jason Bockenstedt at (202) 224-6662. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor
United States Senator