

MIKE ROSS
FOURTH DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

WASHINGTON
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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(202) 225-3772
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mike.ross@mail.house.gov



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE**
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING
AND TRADE
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 28, 2011

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe
United State Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-2600

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

I am writing in response to recent erroneous documents sent to my office by the United States Postal Service regarding the proposed closure of several post offices in the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas. Three letters from District Manager David Camp dated June 21, 2011 stated that final determinations had been made to close post offices in Boles, Parks and Ozan, Arkansas. However, emails received by my staff on June 24, 2011 indicated the letters had been sent erroneously and were being retracted. Copies of the letters and emails are attached to this letter.

The erroneous letters have resulted in much consternation for myself and for the residents of the rural communities served by these post offices. The letters each noted that "the community's input was received and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all the factors involved, the decision was made to proceed with the closure."

However, some believe the Postal Service makes closure determinations without considering public comments and receipt of these letters gives credence to those concerns. In particular, I would like to note that each closure letter listed a nearby post office where full retail services would be available. This makes it hard to believe that a simple clerical error was to blame. At best, it appears that letters were pre-prepared to notify of closures and the only error was the premature sending of the letters.

Therefore, I am requesting a detailed accounting of how this miscommunication happened. This response should include whether closure letters are pre-written for post offices at which final determinations have not been officially made, and if not, at what point such letters are prepared.

HOT SPRINGS

THE FEDERAL BUILDING
100 RESERVE STREET
SUITE 307
HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, AR 71901
(501) 520-5892
(501) 520-5873 FAX

PINE BLUFF

GEORGE HOWARD JR. FEDERAL BUILDING
100 EAST 8TH AVENUE
ROOM 2521
PINE BLUFF, AR 71601
(870) 536-3376
(870) 536-4058 FAX

EL DORADO

UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE
101 NORTH WASHINGTON
SUITE 406
EL DORADO, AR 71730
(870) 881-0681
(870) 881-0683 FAX

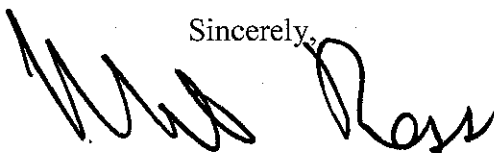
PRESCOTT

221 WEST MAIN STREET
PRESCOTT, AR 71857
(870) 887-6787
(870) 887-6799 FAX

In addition, I am requesting a written response indicating what factors are involved in decisions to proceed with closures and the level to which community input is taken into consideration. Furthermore, I am requesting transcripts of the public hearings to discuss potential closure of these three post offices and all other public hearings held in 2011 to discuss potential closure of any post offices, branches and other Postal Service facilities located in the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas. In conjunction, I am requesting any notes, whether typed or handwritten, from any Postal Service employees in attendance at these hearings or in subsequent private meetings to discuss proposed closures. Finally, I am requesting the name and title of all Postal Service employees who conducted each public hearing or were otherwise present in an official capacity, and why they were selected to participate in these important public meetings.

The people of Arkansas deserve to know whether these post offices have already been slated for closure but have not been formally announced due to procedural requirements, or whether the concerns of citizens are truly being considered. I believe the requested documentation will shed light on this issue. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Mike Ross

June 21, 2011

RECEIVED
JUN 21 2011

Honorable Mike Ross
Congressman of the United States
101 N Washington Ste 406
El Dorado AR 71730-5669

Dear Congressman Ross,

The U.S. Postal Service is committed to keeping our federal lawmakers and Arkansas' delegation members informed and aware of developments regarding mail service to customers in the Arkansas District. This is to inform you Postal Service Headquarters has made a final determination to close the Boles Post Office. The Final Determination notice will be posted for 30 days for public review at the Boles Post Office beginning on June 22, 2011. This office will be open and operational for at least 60 days from the date of the posting.

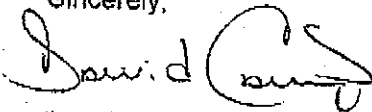
Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is reviewing and evaluating its post office operations in a continuing effort to better meet customers' retail needs, improve productivity, increase efficiency and cut costs. Situations such as lease expiration or a postmaster vacancy in a small Post Office permit a review of that Post Office's business activity to determine if a comparable level of service can be provided by other means. These include the establishment of a delivery extension or establishment of rural delivery service from another office.

The community's input was received and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all of the factors involved, the decision was made to proceed with the closure.

Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services will be available from the Waldron Post Office. Affected career employees will be reassigned in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements and established repositioning processes.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



David Camp
District Manager

June 21, 2011

RECEIVED
6/21/11

Honorable Mike Ross
Congressman of the United States
101 N Washington Ste 406
El Dorado AR 71730-5669

Dear Congressman Ross,

The U.S. Postal Service is committed to keeping our federal lawmakers and Arkansas' delegation members informed and aware of developments regarding mail service to customers in the Arkansas District. This is to inform you Postal Service Headquarters has made a final determination to close the Ozan Post Office. The Final Determination notice will be posted for 30 days for public review at the Ozan Post Office beginning on June 22, 2011. This office will be open and operational for at least 60 days from the date of the posting.

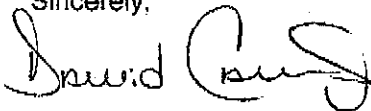
Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is reviewing and evaluating its post office operations in a continuing effort to better meet customers' retail needs, improve productivity, increase efficiency and cut costs. Situations such as lease expiration or a postmaster vacancy in a small Post Office permit a review of that Post Office's business activity to determine if a comparable level of service can be provided by other means. These include the establishment of a delivery extension or establishment of rural delivery service from another office.

The community's input was received and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all of the factors involved, the decision was made to proceed with the closure.

Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services will be available from the Nashville Post Office. Affected career employees will be reassigned in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements and established repositioning processes.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



David Camp
District Manager

June 21, 2011

RECEIVED

Honorable Mike Ross
Congressman of the United States
101 N Washington Ste 406
El Dorado AR 71730-5669

Dear Congressman Ross,

The U.S. Postal Service is committed to keeping our federal lawmakers and Arkansas' delegation members informed and aware of developments regarding mail service to customers in the Arkansas District. This is to inform you Postal Service Headquarters has made a final determination to close the Parks Post Office. The Final Determination notice will be posted for 30 days for public review at the Parks Post Office beginning on June 22, 2011. This office will be open and operational for at least 60 days from the date of the posting.

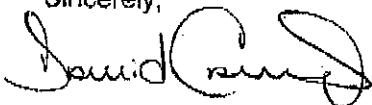
Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is reviewing and evaluating its post office operations in a continuing effort to better meet customers' retail needs, improve productivity, increase efficiency and cut costs. Situations such as lease expiration or a postmaster vacancy in a small Post Office permit a review of that Post Office's business activity to determine if a comparable level of service can be provided by other means. These include the establishment of a delivery extension or establishment of rural delivery service from another office.

The community's input was received and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all of the factors involved, the decision was made to proceed with the closure.

Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services will be available from the Waldron Post Office. Affected career employees will be reassigned in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements and established repositioning processes.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



David Camp
District Manager

From: Lovelace, Venita R - Little Rock, AR [<mailto:venita.r.lovelace@usps.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 05:49 PM

To: [Clermon acklin@boozman.senate.gov](mailto:Clermon_acklin@boozman.senate.gov) <[Clermon acklin@boozman.senate.gov](mailto:Clermon_acklin@boozman.senate.gov)>; [Carrie Hern@pryor.senate.gov](mailto:Carrie_Hern@pryor.senate.gov) <Carrie_Hern@pryor.senate.gov>; Herring, Patricia

Cc: Camp, David W - Little Rock, AR <david.w.camp@usps.gov>; Robinson, Patti E - Little Rock, AR <patti.e.robinson@usps.gov>; Seewoester, Stephen A - Dallas, TX <stephen.a.seewoester@usps.gov>; Tolliver-Gay, Leisa M - Little Rock, AR <Leisa.M.TolliverGay@usps.gov>

Subject: FW: Instructions for posting - Boles

The letter mailed to your office erroneously stated for the final determination for closing the Boles Post Office is to be retracted. The notification was to inform you the PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE BOLES, AR POST OFFICE AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE was being posted at that office.

Please accept our apologies for this error. There has not been a decision made to close this office.

Venita Lovelace
Consumer Industry & Affairs Office
420 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock AR 72205-9631
(501)228-4282

From: Lovelace, Venita R - Little Rock, AR [<mailto:venita.r.lovelace@usps.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 05:55 PM

To: 'Patricia.Herring@mail.house.gov' <'Patricia.Herring@mail.house.gov'>; 'Carrie_Hern@pryor.senate.gov' <'Carrie_Hern@pryor.senate.gov'>; 'Clermon_acklin@boozman.senate.gov' <'Clermon_acklin@boozman.senate.gov'>

Cc: Camp, David W - Little Rock, AR <david.w.camp@usps.gov>; Robinson, Patti E - Little Rock, AR <patti.e.robinson@usps.gov>; Seewoester, Stephen A - Dallas, TX <stephen.a.seewoester@usps.gov>; Tolliver-Gay, Leisa M - Little Rock, AR <Leisa.M.TolliverGay@usps.gov>

Subject: FW: Instructions for posting - Ozan

The letter mailed to your office erroneously stated for the final determination for closing the Ozan Post Office is to be retracted. The notification was to inform you the PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE OZAN, AR POST OFFICE AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE was being posted at that office.

Please accept our apologies for this error. There has not been a decision made to close this office.

Venita Lovelace

Consumer Industry & Affairs Office

420 Natural Resources Drive

Little Rock AR 72205-9631

(501)228-4282

From: Lovelace, Venita R - Little Rock, AR [<mailto:venita.r.lovelace@usps.gov>]

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 05:47 PM

To: Herring, Patricia; [Clermon acklin@boozman.senate.gov](mailto:Clermon_acklin@boozman.senate.gov) <[Clermon acklin@boozman.senate.gov](mailto:Clermon_acklin@boozman.senate.gov)>;
Carrie_Hern@pryor.senate.gov <Carrie_Hern@pryor.senate.gov>

Cc: Camp, David W - Little Rock, AR <david.w.camp@usps.gov>; Robinson, Patti E - Little Rock, AR
<patti.e.robinson@usps.gov>; Seewoester, Stephen A - Dallas, TX <stephen.a.seewoester@usps.gov>; Tolliver-Gay,
Leisa M - Little Rock, AR <Leisa.M.TolliverGay@usps.gov>

Subject: FW: Instructions for posting - Parks

The letter mailed to your office erroneously stated for the final determination for closing the Parks Post Office is to be retracted. The notification was to inform you the PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE PARKS, AR POST OFFICE AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE was being posted at that office.

Please accept our apologies for this error. There has not been a decision made to close this office.

Venita Lovelace

Consumer Industry & Affairs Office

420 Natural Resources Drive

Little Rock AR 72205-9631

(501)228-4282