







# Do You Care About the Impending Closing of Rural Post Offices?

## We do, too.

In September, AUSPL members sent letters to their legislators in Congress and the Senate, urging them to oppose any attempts to weaken the Postal Service. The letter writing campaign was in direct response to the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service's recommendation to close unprofitable rural post offices.

The Commission wants the Postal Service to aggressively partner with grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and convenience stores to bring postal services to customers at home, at work and where they shop. Soon we may all be lining up in the back of Wal-Mart to buy stamps and mail holiday presents.

We believe that all post offices, regardless of size, are potential targets for closure and/or consolidation. That's why we want you to write more letters. Last time, AUSPL provided sample letters for you to use "as is." Now, we want you to write your own letters, using some or all of these powerful suggestions:

-  The cost of rural post offices is less than 1% of the Postal Service budget
-  The post office is the lifeblood of a community
-  Without a post office, the most basic connection for rural America is lost
-  A post office provides other government services such as registration for the draft, applications for Social Security cards and posting of federal notices – in many towns it is the only representative of the federal government
-  In addition to delivering mail, Postmasters often assist customers with the reading of mail and bill paying
-  The older population relies on the post office for day-to-day interaction as well as delivery of medications

The letter writing campaign is working. Many of you have shared with AUSPL the responses you've received from your legislators. In his letter to A.W. Jones, Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD) wrote: "...any reform must maintain universal service. It is essential that we restore the Postal Service to sound economic footing, but we need to do it the right way: by finding innovative, responsible solutions to the challenges facing the Postal Service."

AUSPL President Gary Poelstra met with Ann Fisher, deputy staff director for Senator Susan Collins (R-ME). Senator Collins, a strong advocate for rural post offices, is the chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over USPS. Senator Collins is conducting hearings on the Commission's findings and has invited AUSPL to provide written testimony for the next hearing.

In these tough economic times, we've had to face some tough challenges. We want you to know that we're committed to taking care of our members. We are working to prevent the closure of rural post offices. AUSPL and Steve LeNoir, President of the National League of Postmasters, are united in this endeavor.

**We believe the Commission will not stop with small rural post offices.  
Every post office is a potential target for consolidation or closure.  
Write your legislators today. Do not let them weaken the Postal Service.**



**AUSPL**

Association of United States Postal Lessors

Send a copy of your correspondence to AUSPL  
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National League of Postmasters