

NIKI TSONGAS

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August 15, 2011

Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General, CEO
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe,

In a letter I received on July 26, 2011, you informed me that the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) was conducting a study to determine whether it is appropriate to close two post offices in my district, the Bradford Post Office in Haverhill, Massachusetts and the Lowell Downtown Station Post Office in Lowell, Massachusetts. As you are aware, federal law requires that the Postal Service consider the effect that a Post Office closing will have on a community before it can close a facility. I am writing in support of keeping both of these Post Offices open, as their closure would have a detrimental effect on the Greater Haverhill and Lowell communities and greatly inconvenience a large number of my constituents.

Your letter suggests that the Haverhill Post Office would be an appropriate alternative to the Bradford Post Office. While the Bradford Post Office is located a short distance from the Haverhill Post Office, traveling from the Bradford Post Office to the Haverhill Post Office requires crossing the Merrimack River. Moreover, the Haverhill Post Office does not currently have enough parking for its many customers. Were the Bradford Post Office to close, the Haverhill Post office would be overwhelmed by both traffic congestion and postal customers.

Likewise, the Lowell Downtown Station is located in the heart of the downtown providing access to postal services for the many businesses located here. The Post Office is also located next door to a senior living facility giving seniors access to a post office box and postal services they might not otherwise be able to access.

I understand that in recent years, the Postal Service has experienced significant financial challenges and that it must make decisions with an eye toward its own financial sustainability. However, I believe that it is not in USPS's best interest, nor in the best interest of the communities I represent to close these particular facilities which serve unique neighborhoods and geographic areas. If the USPS decides to move forward with these closures, I would like to be provided with the rationale and specific criteria used to arrive at this decision.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and please don't hesitate to be in touch with me directly if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Niki Tsongas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress