



October 3, 2024

The Honorable Debbie Dingell  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2206

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:

This responds to your letter regarding the Salem Post Office, which is a contract postal unit (CPU).

I understand your interest in ensuring that all your constituents continue to have convenient access to essential postal services. As you may know, the U.S. Postal Service occasionally augments local postal services by competitively contracting with a business or individual to provide postal retail services through operation of a CPU. Most retail services are available in CPUs, including stamp purchases, mail acceptance, Post Office Box delivery, and special services, such as insurance, registry, and certified services. The CPU in Salem is a Community Post Office (CPO), meaning it provides a full line of postal products and services to local customers, including Post Office Box service.

CPOs are not subject to the discontinuance procedures required when the Postal Service closes a traditional Post Office. However, before any postal facility is discontinued, postal managers consider how the closure would affect customers and postal employees, the Postal Service's ability to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community, and the Postal Service's financial position.

In this case, postal officials studied the Salem CPO for possible discontinuance and initially decided to terminate the CPO contract. However, after a more thorough review of the CPO contract, required changes to postal operations, and postal finances, Michigan 1 District Manager Richard Moreton has determined that the Salem CPO should remain open. I regret any stress or confusion the previous closure announcement has caused Salem residents, and I understand that the CPO supplier is pleased with the outcome.

The Postal Service is aware of the extent to which local communities rely upon and appreciate our organization, and there are no plans or directives to postal districts to systematically review or close the 2,295 CPUs across the nation. Please be assured that local and district postal officials are devoting considerable attention and effort to ensuring that customers in Salem and other rural communities continue to receive regular and convenient mail delivery service.

Thank you for writing, and please let me know if I can assist with other postal matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D. Reedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James D. Reedy  
Government Relations Representative