

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4606

COMMITTEES:  
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TRANSPORTATION  
  
BUDGET  
  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

December 8, 2009

Ms. Joanna Hall  
President  
Cradock Civic League  
92 Nicholson Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23702-2965

Dear Ms. Hall,

Enclosed you will find the response from the United States Postal Service to my inquiry on your behalf. I hope that the information provided will be helpful and responsive to your specific concerns.

My staff and I stand ready to be of assistance to you in any other matter that is of concern to you. Thank you.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator

MRW/be  
Enclosure

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December 4, 2009

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator  
235 Federal Building  
180 West Main Street  
Abingdon, VA 24210-2851

Dear Senator Warner:

This is in response to your November 12 letter on behalf of Cradock Civic League President Joanna Hall, regarding the Cradock Finance Station of the Portsmouth Post Office.

Thank you for sharing Ms. Hall's comments. I recognize your interest in ensuring that your constituents continue to have convenient access to essential postal services. As you are aware, the U.S. Postal Service is a self-supporting agency that funds its operations from the revenue generated by the sales of our products and services—not taxpayer subsidies received through the Congressional appropriations process. Like so many businesses today, the Postal Service is experiencing significant financial challenges related to declining mail volumes and revenue. Despite cost-cutting efforts resulting in \$6 billion in cost savings and a \$4 billion reduction in required payments for retiree health benefits, the Postal Service ended fiscal year 2009 with a net loss of \$3.8 billion and a mail volume decline of more than 25 billion pieces. Forecasts for 2010 appear equally as dim.

In the face of such difficulties, the Postal Service is pursuing solutions and strategies to improve efficiency and generate additional cost savings in an effort to mitigate the impact. Failure to do so would be irresponsible and threaten our ability to accomplish our mission of providing universal service to the nation at affordable prices.

Richmond District postal officials confirm that they are reviewing operations at the Cradock Finance Station. The study is ongoing and no final decisions have been made. You can be assured that postal officials are devoting careful attention and effort to this study, and customers will be notified in advance of any changes that may affect service in their area.

If I can be of assistance in other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James K. Cari".

James K. Cari  
Government Relations Representative