

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2008

The Honorable John E. Potter  
Postmaster General  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260-0001

Dear Postmaster General Potter:

We are writing on behalf of the residential and business postal customers in the Town of Berlin, Vermont, requesting the re-establishment of a post office and unique zip code within the town. The enclosed letter from Patricia A. McDonald dated September 23, 2008 details the reasoning behind this request. While we are aware that the United States Postal Service is currently experiencing budgetary constraints, we believe that this request should be given a careful and thorough review given Berlin's rapid growth and postal needs.

Berlin is a fast growing community that is quickly becoming one of the largest commercial centers in central Vermont. The 220 employers located within the town include the Edward F. Knapp State Airport, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont and the Berlin Mall-the region's largest indoor retail space. The Central Vermont Medical Center, the region's largest employer, is also located in Berlin.

There is a historical precedent for a post office located within Berlin. Until 1988, the Village of Riverton, which is located within Berlin town limits, had both a post office and a zip code of its own. The Town of Berlin is now significantly more populous than Riverton ever was, and yet must rely on a patchwork of zip codes and the post offices of the neighboring communities of Montpelier, Barre and Northfield.

The lack of a zip code and post office has led to a number of service problems in Berlin, and there is a real concern that these service problems have the potential to harm the growth of businesses within Berlin. The frustration of the community at large with the present situation is obvious. In March of 2008 a large majority of Berlin residents approved a ballot item expressing the community's support of a Berlin post office. The town has also had multiple petition drives aimed at requesting the re-establishment of a Berlin post office. In recent years, our offices have been contacted on many occasions by citizens and elected officials in Berlin who have expressed dissatisfaction with the situation as it stands.

The Berlin Selectboard has requested a meeting with the USPS to discuss its concerns regarding the present situation. We support their request as a first step toward finding a permanent solution. We welcome the opportunity to work with the USPS and the Berlin Selectboard in making arrangements for a meeting.

We appreciate your extending every proper consideration to this matter. Should you have any questions regarding our request, please contact Graham Forward in Senator Leahy's office at (802) 863-2525, Elizabeth Miller in Senator Sander's office at (802) 862-0697 or Rachel Seelig at Congressman Welch's office at (802) 652-2450.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
U.S. Senator



BERNARD SANDERS  
U.S. Senator



PETER WELCH  
U.S. Representative

cc: Deborah Essler, District Manager  
Patricia A. McDonald