

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2026

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General Steiner,

I write to submit input for the discontinuance feasibility study on the proposed permanent closure of the Wheeler Post Office. I am deeply concerned that the permanent closure of the Wheeler Post Office would continue to make it exceedingly difficult for my constituents to access convenient and reliable postal services. As a final determination on this is made, I urge USPS to find an alternative solution that restores dependable postal services for Wheeler residents.

Since the suspension of the Wheeler Post Office in July 2023 due to health and safety concerns at the facility, Wheeler residents have had to travel to the Hobart Post Office to collect their mail. This creates significant barriers for Wheeler residents, who do not receive door-to-door mail delivery service. As a result, instead of having 24-hour access to their Post Office (PO) boxes, residents must find time during business hours to go to Hobart to collect critical mail – including prescription medicine, veterans' benefits information, and Social Security checks.

After nearly two years without designated PO boxes, Wheeler residents were given keys to PO boxes at the Hobart Post Office. However, this has not solved postal reliability issues for my constituents, who still only have access to these PO boxes during retail hours. Permanently maintaining PO boxes at the Hobart Main Office would exacerbate these challenges and have an outsized impact on seniors, residents without reliable transportation, and residents without flexible work hours. These concerns were reiterated at the USPS virtual community meeting for the discontinuance feasibility study on August 25, 2026, and should be seriously considered as USPS assesses next steps.

Moreover, I am deeply disappointed that USPS announced the proposed closure and public input process during ongoing disaster response and recovery efforts in the region. Following severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornadoes that began on August 11, 2026, residents throughout Northwest Indiana – including Porter County – sustained severe home damages and experienced widespread, prolonged power outages. As a result, President Trump approved both an Emergency Declaration and Major Disaster Declaration for Indiana.

Despite this active crisis, USPS sent letters on August 17 informing Wheeler residents of the proposed post office closure and the August 25 virtual community meeting. During this period, many residents were still without power and internet access, and mail services were disrupted by the severe weather. Scheduling the only community meeting during this disaster, when many constituents were likely unable to receive the information or attend, was extremely insensitive and directly hinders a fair and comprehensive public input process. This is only one example of the Postal Service's repeated failure to adequately communicate timely and transparent information regarding the status of the Wheeler Post Office to my office, local elected officials, and residents.

Over the past three years, I have heard from constituents and local elected officials about the disruptive impact of the prolonged Wheeler Post Office suspension. The USPS universal service obligation dictates that all Americans receive reliable, affordable, and consistent mail service regardless of location. To uphold this standard, I urge USPS to find an alternative solution that restores essential mail services for Wheeler residents, and request that USPS schedule another community meeting to give constituents a real opportunity to express their concerns.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I stand ready to work together to ensure Indiana's First Congressional District receives reliable, efficient, and consistent access to postal services.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Mrvan

Member of Congress