

TO: USPS

District Discontinuance Coordinator

FL 2



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

CONSOLIDATION, what a wonderful word for big business! Sounds like you're doing the right thing! However, to SMALL town America, like Chokoloskee, you're proposing taking the heart out of small-town life.

The Post Office what does it mean? On our little island dating back to the early 1900's it means going and getting your mail by foot, bicycle. Having a neighbor pick it up if you are sick. Everyone knows everyone. Yes, we had a public bulletin board. Yes, it was a community gathering place and so much more. Just try and put yourself in our shoes, please for just a moment and try to understand what you are proposing taking away FOREVER!

"Cut costs" you will do that, no question. Is it possible to look at the human side of this study? Please understand what it means to still be able to WALK to your Post Office?

The effort behind this study is obvious to us all. Our Post Office did not make money, you as a service need to change that by consolidation. What that creates for us, the end user, is now we all drive 4 miles to get our mail. Five days a week, 20 days a month, 240 days a year. Does that make sense? Can we all not work together to figure out a better solution instead of more inconvenience, time, cost and pollution to us, the end users?

Ideas:

1. Small and more efficient Post Office that is mobile in case of hurricanes. Driven to high ground when needed.
2. Less hours of operation. A small community can deal with that.
3. Increase PO Box rates vs. gas by driving to EC.
4. Reach out to see if a location can be donated for operations. We personally would work very hard to hopefully make that happen.

The history of postal service on Chokoloskee Is. is historic as you must know. Smallwood's Store and Museum represent all of that past. People come from all over the World to this small "neck of the woods" rich in American history including the United States Post Office! You have a replica of our Post Office in the Museum. Now we must tell visitors they cannot mail anything from "Chokoloskee, FL 34138".

We personally beg you to rethink what you are proposing and reach out and TRY to find a way to keep small town's small with local postal service!

PLEASE,

Steven and Kate Riley

