

**BEFORE THE**  
**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001**

**Regulations Establishing System  
of Ratemaking**

**Docket No. RM2007-1**

**DOUGLAS F. CARLSON**  
**COMMENTS ON THE POSTAL SERVICE'S DRAFT**  
**DOMESTIC MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE**

**October 9, 2007**

On September 24, 2007, the Postal Service filed a draft Domestic Mail Classification Schedule.<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Order No. 33,<sup>2</sup> I hereby provide comments.

In its opinion and recommended decision in Docket No. R2006-1, the Commission explicitly rejected the Postal Service's plan not to offer Bound Printed Matter service to retail customers and not to allow retail customers to mail single-piece Bound Printed Matter unless they approached the window with postage "preaffixed." PRC Op. R2006-1 at 391-92. The Commission determined that the Postal Service's plan would unduly discriminate against individuals. *Id.* at 391. The Commission also rejected the Postal Service's proposal to change the classification name from "Single-Piece" to "Nonpresort." *Id.* at 392. The Commission determined that "Single-Piece" "connotes no ambiguity requiring clarification[.]" *Id.* The Commission also held that "the proposed nomenclature change appears to be little more than a stratagem related to the proposal to curtail BPM availability." *Id.*

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<sup>1</sup> United States Postal Service Submission of Initial Mail Classification Schedule in Response to Order No. 26, filed September 24, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Order No. 33, filed September 10, 2007.

When the Postal Service implemented the new rates and fees on May 14, 2007, it proceeded to implement exactly the plan that the Commission rejected. The Governors' decision left little doubt about the Postal Service's intentions.<sup>3</sup>

The Postal Service's draft DMCS proposes the name "Nonpresorted" to describe single-piece Bound Printed Matter Flats and Bound Printed Matter Parcels. The draft DMCS reflects a backdoor attempt to implement a discriminatory plan that participants opposed during the litigation in Docket No. R2006-1 and that the Commission found seriously defective. The Postal Service presently is discriminating against individual mailers who send mail matter that is eligible for Bound Printed Matter. The Commission should not allow the Postal Service to try to condone the curtailed availability of Bound Printed Matter by changing the name of the service in the DMCS.

The Postal Service similarly proposes to eliminate current section 3040, which states, in pertinent part: "Postage for all mail may be prepaid with postage meter indicia, adhesive stamps, permit imprint, or other payment methods specified by the Postal Service." This existence of this section may have caused the Postal Service to back away during Docket No. R2006-1 litigation from its initial proposal to prevent customers from using adhesive postage stamps to mail Single-Piece Bound Printed Matter. The agency may have similar restrictions in mind for other services. A DMCS section that specifies that customers may pay postage for all mail using adhesive stamps is necessary to protect the rights of customers.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 9, 2007

DOUGLAS F. CARLSON

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<sup>3</sup> Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Opinion and Recommended Decision of the Postal Regulatory Commission on Changes in Postal Rates and Fees, Docket No. R2006-1 at 19, filed March 19, 2007.