



May 22, 2006

Mr. Rusty Lucas  
Post Office Box 422  
Sandusky, OH 44871-0422

Dear Mr. Lucas:

Thank you for your April 28 letter to Postmaster General John E. Potter concerning a number of subjects. Your long time interest in stamps is appreciated and I trust I can provide the answers to your questions and concerns.

For your philatelic questions, you may want to contact the American Philatelic Society at 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823-1367. They may be reached by phone at 814.933.3817. Local stamp collectors and dealers in your area may also be able to answer your concerns.

Concerning your questions regarding the availability of new stamps during a rate change, there are a lot of factors involved. When the process of a rate change is undertaken, the independent Postal Rate Commission evaluates the need for a rate increase for ten months. Until the official rate is determined, we are not allowed to print the new denomination. Since there are so many Postal facilities and stores to accomodate, and only an average of one to two months to produce stamps, we have to print the non-denominated version to cover needs until the denominated versions are printed, which averages three to four months. I hope you can understand the tight schedules that are involved. Even though non-denominated stamps are initially used, they are only valid for the current rate and safeguards are in place so that the scenario you suggested does not occur.

Your suggestions for future commemorative stamps are appreciated and will be forwarded to the proper managers. Lastly, employee uniform attire is restricted to our letter carriers. If you are interested in such a position, an application may be obtained from your local Post Office.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write. Our ultimate goal is to create a yearly stamp program that reflects all that is great about America—from events and people that bind us together to the diversity of cultures that forms the foundation of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrence W. McCaffrey".

Terrence W. McCaffrey  
Manager  
Stamp Development