

KATHY CASTOR
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS
AND TECHNOLOGY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST
PARTY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0914

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2188 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3376

TAMPA DISTRICT OFFICE:
2130 W. MAIN STREET
TAMPA, FL 33607
(813) 871-2817

ST. PETERSBURG DISTRICT OFFICE:
136 FOURTH STREET NORTH
SUITE 201
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701
(727) 569-0201

castor.house.gov

August 26, 2025

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General
USPS Headquarters
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20260-0010

RE: Urge USPS to Keep Apollo Beach Contract Postal Unit (CPU) Open

Dear Postmaster General Steiner,

Thank you for your leadership and service. On behalf of my neighbors across the Tampa Bay region, I respectfully urge you to keep the Apollo Beach CPU open and preserve supportive postal services in our growing community.

It has been brought to my attention that the Apollo Beach Contract Postal Unit (CPU) located at 219 Flamingo Drive in Apollo Beach, Florida, has received a notice for contract termination, scheduled for September 30, 2025. I am writing to express concern over the closure, to receive details on this location's selection for contract termination, and to respectfully request you consider an appeal to reverse this decision.

Doreen Morrison, owner of the Apollo Beach CPU and the retail space in which it is located, received a 120-day written termination notice on Friday, May 30th. Ms. Morrison has owned and operated the CPU since December 2005. For nearly 20 years, the Apollo Beach CPU has been a core essential service for members of the local community; a community that is rapidly growing. Over the past decade, Apollo Beach's population has more than doubled in size. This has been met with an increased reliance on the CPU's retail, shipping and PO box services for local residents and business owners alike. My office has received outreach from constituents expressing their support for the Apollo Beach CPU and a public petition has been signed by over 2,000 members of the community.

The closest Postal Service-operated retail facilities to the Apollo Beach CPU range from 4-10 miles in distance. Plus, the nearest facility, the Ruskin Post Office (455 N. US Highway 41), has been closed for nearly a year now due to impacts from Hurricane Helene, which struck my community last September. My office has been closely tracking the facility's reopening process, and it is my understanding that USPS's latest estimate is a scheduled reopening for this October, delayed from an original July date. The Ruskin Post Office's closure for the past year has caused my neighbors to rely on alternative postal service facilities, including the Apollo Beach CPU. I am extremely concerned that the CPU's closure will only exacerbate the accessibility issues, including lengthier commutes and wait times, that members of the community who utilize and depend on these essential postal services have been facing. Additionally, this places a strain on the employees and resources across alternative facilities. These concerns are acknowledged and shared at the local USPS level. It is my understanding that multiple appeals have been submitted for your consideration by USPS leadership in my community.

It is with all of this information in mind that ***I strongly urge you to revert the USPS's contract termination decision, and continue postal operations with the Apollo Beach CPU. Additionally, I urge you to expedite the repair and reopening of the Ruskin Post Office.***

I respectfully request that you immediately provide the following information:

1. Why was the Apollo Beach CPU contract specifically selected for termination?
 - a. What criteria were considered for this selection?
2. Are there other CPUs across Florida and nation-wide that are experiencing contract terminations?
3. What are the estimated economic effects of the Apollo Beach CPU closure on USPS?
4. What are the current average wait times for customers at the Gibsonton, Balm, Sun City Center, Riverview and Wimauma post offices?
 - a. How do you expect these wait times to change after the Apollo Beach CPU closure?
5. Was this CPU closure requested by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)?
6. Will the closure of the Apollo Beach CPU affect the USPS's Universal Service Obligation?
7. May you provide me with a latest, detailed report of the reopening timeline for the Ruskin Post Office?
 - a. What progress has been made up to this point to address repairs, and what needs remain?
8. Have you received any appeals to the CPU closure that have been submitted by local community Postal Supervisor and Postmasters?
 - a. Are you reviewing these appeals, and when is your estimated response?

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my Legislative Assistant, Daniela Clark-Murrieta, at daniela.clark-murrieta@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3376.

Sincerely,

Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress