

**GUS M. BILIRAKIS**  
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
  
ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0912

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2313 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5755

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
7132 LITTLE ROAD  
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654  
(727) 232-2921  
5901 ARGERIAN DRIVE, SUITE 102  
WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33545  
(813) 501-4942  
600 KLOSTERMAN ROAD, ROOM BB38  
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689  
(727) 940-5860  
36739 STATE ROAD 52, SUITE 212  
DADE CITY, FL 33525  
(866) 773-2871

September 19, 2018

Ms. Stephanie Childs, Executive Director  
Government Relations and Public Policy  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

Dear Ms. Childs:

It has come to my attention that the post office located in Aripeka, Florida may be permanently closing as early as next month due to the building owner's unwillingness to renew the lease. This situation concerns me greatly.

Aripeka is a rural town of approximately 300 people located along the Gulf of Mexico at the border dividing Pasco and Hernando counties. The Pasco County side of Aripeka, the portion in the congressional district that I represent, does not receive home mail delivery, and the residents depend on their free post office boxes. By closing this rural branch, Aripeka residents will be forced to drive approximately 16 miles roundtrip to the nearest post office in Hudson, Florida. This is an unrealistic, unsustainable, and unfair option for the Aripeka population, as 22.2% of residents live in poverty and the median age for residents is 58.5 years, both of which are well above the national average.

I have been told that the building's current owner, while unwilling to renew the lease, has offered to sell the building outright to the United States Postal Service (USPS). If this is not an option the USPS is interested in pursuing, I urge the USPS to institute home delivery for the entire town of Aripeka. As you know, the stated core function of the USPS is to provide the secure, reliable, and affordable delivery of mail and packages to EVERY address in the United States, its territories, and its military installations worldwide.

It is my goal to prevent unnecessary hardship for the residents of Aripeka, and I hope that an agreement for a viable solution will be reached as soon as possible. Please keep me updated by contacting my Deputy Chief of Staff, Summer Robertson, at [summer.robertson@mail.house.gov](mailto:summer.robertson@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely yours,



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress