



Town Of Scotland

First Selectman's Office

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*First Selectman
Dana Barrow Jr.*

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Michael Gurnack Jr.
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February 20, 2025

Chairman James Comer
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Gerald Connolly
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2106 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Connolly,

As the First Selectman of Scotland, Connecticut, I write to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in support of legislation that will designate a single, unique ZIP Code for our town, including through Rep. Mario Diaz Balart's H.R. 672 which is also supported by our town's representative in the US House, Congressman Joe Courtney.

The 625 residences of Scotland, Connecticut, receive their mail from six post offices: Hampton 06247, Windham Center 06280, Baltic 06330, Canterbury 06331, North Windham 06256, and Scotland 06264. Most of the residents who receive mail in Scotland 06264 do so at PO Boxes; approximately 20 homes are served by a STAR route. Everyone else in town, the vast majority, receives mail through a post office that has no geopolitical relationship to the town in which they live.

Due to the town's ZIP Code configuration, Scotland residents face daily frustration with packages being misdelivered, service providers being unable to find their properties, and digital ordering or registration systems refusing to accept their address information. But the issue goes beyond inconvenience. People have paid taxes to the wrong town and sent their children to the wrong schools. Town party committees and voluntary associations cannot effectively reach residents by mail. Public health statistics seriously understate the burden of disease in our town, and other survey data also misrepresent us. A high percentage of absentee ballot applications that we were required by law to send out during the pandemic were returned—not because the people weren't in town, but because the USPS computer scanning system rejected their addresses. The situation is clearly damaging to us individually and as a community.

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Last Congress, ZIP Code designation legislation was favorably reported by your committee unanimously before it was approved by the full House in December 2024. Although that legislation did not move in the Senate, the people of Scotland still face a serious problem under their confusing ZIP Code system and are still in need of a solution. We believe a legislative solution is necessary. Under the leadership of former First Selectman Gary Greenberg, a boundary review request was submitted to the United States Postal Service which was then denied on August 24th, 2020. First Selectman Greenberg additionally submitted an appeal to the denial which to his knowledge went unanswered.

Our town looks forward to legislation designating a unique ZIP Code for Scotland, Connecticut, gaining consideration in the new Congress. I remain available to answer any questions your committee might have about the postal issues Scotland continues to face.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dana E. Barrows Jr." in a cursive script.

Dana Barrows, Jr
First Selectman