



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting on February 27, 2024, during which the CCAC reviewed reverse candidate designs for the 2025 American Innovation \$1 Coin Program honoring innovations in Florida and Texas. As background information regarding this program will accompany this communication, this letter details the CCAC's recommendations.

Florida

The state of Florida has proposed honoring the Space Shuttle Program. Of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) ten field centers, none is more identifiable than the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) on Merritt Island, Florida. And, arguably, no spacecraft is more recognizable than the Space Shuttle, or Space Transportation System (STS), the world's first reusable spacecraft. NASA's space shuttle fleet first launched on April 12, 1981, and completed 30 years of missions, each launched from the KSC's Launch Complex 39. Starting with *Columbia* and continuing with *Challenger*, *Discovery*, *Atlantis*, and *Endeavour*, the space shuttle has carried people into orbit; launched, recovered, and repaired satellites; conducted cutting-edge research; and built the largest structure in space, the International Space Station. The final space shuttle mission, STS-135, ended when *Atlantis* landed at the KSC on July 21, 2011.

Out of a possible 24 points, the CCAC scored reverse design **FL-09** 17 points, the highest score for all of the options. While recommending this candidate design, the CCAC also recommends that the stylized stars in the background be reconsidered for deletion or modification by the US Mint staff. Reverse design FL-09 features the Space Shuttle lifting off from KSC's Launch Complex 39 framed to the lower left and right of the field by billowing smoke. This design candidate was also favored by the Commission of Fine Arts.

Texas

The state of Texas has proposed honoring Mission Control at the Johnson Space Center. In 1961, NASA established its Manned Spacecraft Center in Clear Lake, Texas, on a 1,000-acre site donated by Rice University. The facility was later renamed Johnson Space Center (JSC) to honor former President Lyndon B. Johnson. JSC provides NASA with the economic, logistical, and intellectual support needed for its human space flight program.



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The CCAC reviewed nine reverse candidate designs. Following a robust conversation which included a liaison from the Texas State Governor's office and one from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the CCAC scored the candidate designs with TX-03 and TX-06 tied both receiving 19 points out of a possible 24. On a subsequent motion, the CCAC recommended by a vote of five in favor, two against, and one abstaining reverse candidate design **TX-06**, which was not the preferred design of the Governor of Texas, who preferred TX-03, featuring an astronaut in space floating above the International Space Station. Candidate design TX-06 presents a view of a Space Shuttle on a large Mission Control screen in the background while in the foreground a man sits at a bank of computer terminals. The Commission for Fine Arts had no recommended candidate design from this portfolio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Peter van Alfen". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Peter van Alfen, PhD, CCAC Chair