March 15, 2013

The Honorable Jack Lew  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220  

Dear Secretary Lew:  

A public meeting of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (Committee) was held on Monday, March 11, 2013, at United States Mint Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Committee reviewed proposed obverse and reverse designs for the Raoul Wallenberg Congressional Gold Medal Program.  

For the medal’s obverse design, the Committee recommended design Obverse-02. The design, which garnered 16 of the 24 possible points through the Committee’s scoring process, depicts an image of Raoul Wallenberg with barbed wire in the background symbolizing his work to save Hungarian Jews from Nazi death camps. The Committee recommended the words “Act of Congress 2012” be added to the design as well as the addition of a dash and question mark after Mr. Wallenberg’s birth date of 1912 to convey the unknown end of his life. Finally the Committee requested that Mr. Wallenberg’s image be improved to more closely resemble his image as portrayed in Obverse-07.  

The Committee recommended reverse design Reverse-06 by collectively assigning 16 of the 24 possible points available through the Committee’s scoring process. The design is rendered from Mr. Wallenberg’s view as he extends a Schutz-Pass to a crowd of Jews who are about to be loaded onto a train bound for a Nazi concentration camp.  

Sincerely,  

Gary B. Marks  
Chair
March 15, 2013

The Honorable Jack Lew
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

A public meeting of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (Committee) was held on Monday, March 11, 2013, at United States Mint Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Committee reviewed proposed obverse and reverse designs for the 2013 First Spouse Gold Coin and Medal Program honoring Ida McKinley, Edith Roosevelt, Helen Taft, Ellen Wilson and Edith Wilson.

For the coin and medal honoring Ida McKinley, the Committee recommended obverse design IM-O-01. The design received 13 of a possible 24 points. Reverse design IM-R-02 garnered 21 of a possible 24 points and, therefore, is submitted with a strong recommendation by the Committee.

Among the proposed designs honoring Edith Roosevelt, the Committee recommended obverse design ER-O-02. The design received 21 of 24 possible points. Reverse design ER-R-03 tallied a perfect score of 24 of 24 possible points and is forwarded with the Committee’s strongest possible recommendation. The design provides an illustration of Edith Roosevelt’s oversight of the White House restoration in 1902. Committee members felt the design was interesting and well executed and addresses an important contribution by Edith Roosevelt.

For the obverse of the coin honoring Helen Taft, the Committee recommended HT-O-02. The design received 18 of 24 possible points. Reverse design HT-R-04 earned the Committee’s recommendation with a perfect 24 of 24 possible points. The design shows a branch of Japanese cherry blossoms, symbolizing Mrs. Taft’s instrumental role in bringing cherry blossom trees to Washington, D.C. Members of the Committee felt the design was elegant and beautiful and will produce a very attractive coin and medal. The perfect score received by this design demonstrates the Committee’s strongest possible recommendation that it be utilized for this coin and medal.

For the coin and medal honoring Ellen Wilson, the Committee recommended obverse design ElW-O-02 by assigning it 16 of the possible 24 points. For the reverse design, the Committee gave 21 of 24 possible points to design ElW-R-05 and, therefore, forwards the design with a strong recommendation. The design gives tribute to Mrs. Wilson’s creation of the White House Rose Garden and includes a far view of the White House.
For the obverse of the coin honoring Edith Wilson, the Committee recommended EdW-O-03. The design received 18 of 24 possible points. Reverse design EdW-R-02 was the highest scoring design among those offered but only garnered 4 of the possible 24 points. Since this design did not attain the minimum criteria for a design recommendation pursuant to Committee rule, the Committee forwards no recommendation at this time. However, the Committee has requested the Mint provide additional reverse designs honoring Edith Wilson and has recommended such designs focus on her role in assisting President Wilson in the execution of his duties following his stroke.

Sincerely,

Gary B. Marks
Chair