



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

April 24, 2023

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 April 18, 2023, during which the CCAC reviewed candidate designs and made recommendations for the 2024 Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coin program. As per *Public Law 117-163*, the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act (Act), recognizes the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth. The Act instructs that designs shall be emblematic of her legacy as an abolitionist. As background information regarding this program will accompany this communication, this letter details the CCAC's recommendations.

The CCAC reviewed the candidate designs for the obverses and reverses of the three coins in the Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coin Program, which were developed consistent with the three periods of Ms. Tubman's life and work. The silver dollar designs reflect her work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad; the half dollar designs represent her work during the Civil War; and the five-dollar gold coin reflects her life after the Civil War and into her later years.

Ms. Karen Hill, President and CEO of the Harriet Tubman Home Inc. and Mr. Woodrow Keown Jr, President and COO of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the liaisons for this program, joined the CCAC to discuss the candidate designs. This was the first time in years, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, that liaisons to coin or medal program participated in person in discussions with the CCAC. One of the take home messages from Ms. Hill was Ms. Tubman's legacy extended beyond her Underground Railroad efforts. Mr. Keown's major take home message was Ms. Tubman's role in the development of this country. Because of the richness of the portfolios provided by the United States Mint, the CCAC's recommendations followed extensive conversations with Ms. Hill and Mr. Keown before making recommendations on each of the three coins in this program.

### **Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coin Program, One Dollar Silver Coin**

The CCAC reviewed six obverse and six reverse candidate designs for the one-dollar silver commemorative coin. Unanimously, the CCAC recommended obverse **HT-S-O-01** and reverse **HT-S-R-01**. Both of these are the preferences of the liaisons. **HT-S-O-01** depicts Harriet Tubman offering her hand to the viewer. Ms. Tubman's serious and searching expression, with concerted eye contact, challenges the viewer to seize the opportunity for freedom. The design has good negative space, giving greater focus on the major design element. **HT-S-R-01** features silhouettes travelling across a bridge created by a pair of clasping arms. In the sky above, the Big Dipper constellation points to the North Star, which forms the "O" in "OF."

### **Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coin Program, Half Dollar Clad Coin**

The CCAC reviewed seven obverse and six reverse candidate designs for the half dollar clad commemorative coin. Following an extensive discussion, by a vote of 10 CCAC members in favor and one opposed, the CCAC recommended obverse design **HT-C-O-04** and reverse design **HT-C-R-05**. Both of these are the preferences of the liaisons.

**HT-C-O-04** depicts Harriet Tubman. In the background, two Civil War-era boats represent the Combahee River Raid. Ms. Tubman distinguished herself as the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the Civil War, the Combahee River Raid, resulting in more than 700 (or 750) enslaved persons in South Carolina being freed. This narrative would be crucial for the observer to understand the relationship between the design elements and the Civil War.

**HT-C-R-05** includes a row of Civil War-era tents lining the horizon and depicts Harriet Tubman holding a spyglass, symbolic of her work as a scout and a spy for the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War. Additional inscriptions include “CIVIL WAR,” “NURSE,” “SCOUT,” “SPY,” and “COMBAHEE RIVER RAID LEADER.”

### **Harriet Tubman Commemorative Coin Program, Five Dollar Gold Coin**

The CCAC reviewed six obverse and six reverse candidate designs for the five-dollar gold commemorative coin. Unanimously, the CCAC recommended obverse design **HT-G-O-04** modified to display her hair and reverse design **HT-G-R-01A**. These recommendations were consistent with the guidance of the liaisons.

**HT-G-O-04** portrays Harriet Tubman in her years after the Civil War. **HT-G-R-01A** depicts a two-handed gesture, symbolizing Harriet Tubman’s efforts throughout her life to help and care for people and includes Harriet Tubman’s seven core values, passed down from generation to generation. Those are “FAITH,” “FREEDOM,” “FAMILY,” “COMMUNITY,” “SELF-DETERMINATION,” “SOCIAL JUSTICE,” and “EQUALITY.”

Clearly, the United States Mint superbly embraced the liaisons in presenting a phenomenal portfolio of candidate designs. The CCAC benefited from the presence of the liaisons as they complemented the written narrative provided to the CCAC. Their presence added undeniable richness to the CCAC’s discussion.

On behalf of the CCAC, we are thankful to continue our participation in the process of recommending designs that will be discussed and appreciated by Americans for years to come in telling and revealing often unrealized chapters in the history of the United States.

Sincerely,



Lawrence S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, DFASAM  
CCAC Chairperson