June 23, 2021

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting via video conference on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, during which the CCAC made recommendations for the three reverse portfolio designs for the remainder of the 2022 American Women Quarters program. (P.L. 116-330)

The first reverse portfolio that the CCAC reviewed was for the 2022 quarter honoring Wilma Mankiller. In 1985, Wilma Mankiller became the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. The CCAC was joined by, a representative of her estate, Ms. Kristina Kiehl and Ms. Mankiller’s widow, Mr. Charlie Soap. Following discussion that garnered a great deal of support for the stakeholders preferred design, WM-01B, a motion was made to recommend the design via a voice vote, which passed unanimously. Design WM-01B depicts Wilma Mankiller with a resolute gaze to the future, the wind is at her back, and she is wrapped in a traditional shawl. To her left is the seven-pointed star of the Cherokee Nation. The additional inscriptions are “PRINCIPAL CHIEF” and “CHEROKEE NATION,” which is written in the Cherokee Language.

The second reverse portfolio reviewed was that honoring Adelina “Nina” Otero-Warren, the first Hispanic woman to run for United States Congress, the first female superintendent of public schools in Santa Fe, and a leader in New Mexico’s woman’s suffrage movement. The Committee was joined by family members Ms. Consuelo Althouse, Ms. Katie Peters, and Ms. Nancy Kenney. Again, with this portfolio, the discussion yielded overwhelming support for the stakeholders preferred design AOW-03. A motion was made to recommend AOW-03 through a voice vote, which was unanimous. The design features an image of Adelina Otero-Warren on the left, flanked by three Yucca blossoms – New Mexico’s state flower. The additional inscription is “EL VOTO PARA LAS MUJERES,” or “The Vote for Women” written in Spanish. The stakeholders requested the nickname “NINA” be included in the design, if possible. After consultation with the Mint Chief Engraver, Joseph Menna, a motion was made and passed unanimously that “ADELINA” be replaced by “NINA” with no loss to the original composition. The stakeholders agreed with the change.
The third reverse portfolio was that for Anna May Wong, the first Chinese-American film star in Hollywood, with over 60 films to her credit. In a portfolio of excellent designs, two stood out for the Committee. The first was AMW-01, which features an image of Anna May Wong striking a classic dramatic pose. The inscriptions, arranged to read as they might in a movie poster from the era, are “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ANNA MAY WONG IN QUARTER DOLLAR.” The additional inscription across the bottom is “E PLURIBUS UNUM.” This design initially received 18 votes, placing a close second to the design of AMW-10, featuring a close-up image of Anna May Wong with her head resting on her hand, illuminated by the bright lights of a marquee sign. This initially was the top choice with 21 points.

Recognizing that AMW-01 represents a break-through design for the United States Mint, a motion was made to take a voice vote between the two designs. AMW-01 rose to the top. The use of the words “QUARTER DOLLAR” as if it was a movie title was termed “genius” by no less than four Committee members.

The members of the CCAC are proud to be a part of this American Women Quarter Dollar program and feel that the five total designs recommended for 2022 will be enthusiastically received by the collecting public.

Best regards,

Mary N. Lannin
Chair