

September 28, 2018

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

A public meeting of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) was held on Thursday, September 28, 2018, to review and discuss the candidate designs for the 2018 first coin of the American Innovation \$1 Coin Program.

The American Innovation \$1 Coin Act, Public Law 115-197, was enacted mid-year, and the Committee was cognizant of the responsibility to quickly but thoughtfully recommend the sole obverse that would be used for the next 14 years in this coin program, involving innovations from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the five US territories.

The law mandates that the reverse bear the signature of George Washington as depicted on the first US patent, issued on July 31, 1790. The mint mark and date, along with “E Pluribus Unum,” are to be edge-lettered in this series.

After robust discussion, the Committee recommended a bold design of the Statue of Liberty (2018-AI-O-08) facing left and holding high her torch. The negative space surrounding Liberty will make a distinctive and easily identifiable obverse. This design received 18 of 30 possible votes, and was also the preference of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The reverse design (2018-AI-R-08), bearing George Washington’s signature above “Signed First Patent”, was clearly the Committee’s favorite, garnering 29 of a possible 30 votes. This distinctive design, with the United States of America on a diagonal strip separating a series of gears from the words “American Innovators” and the U.S. Patent Office relief on the Hoover Building in Washington, D.C., is a testimony to American industry and innovation. A discussion of using a gear as a privy mark for future designs may offer the collector of this new series a compelling reason to acquire each new coin, no matter how diverse the innovations or inventions.

The Committee is pleased to be a part of recommending designs for this series.

Best regards, I am



Mary N. Lannin
Chair