

Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee

801 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20220



March 10, 2015

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 Thursday, March 5, 2015, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The Committee reviewed proposed obverse and reverse designs for the 2016 Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Program, inclusive of a \$5 gold coin and a silver dollar coin.

For the \$5 gold coin, the Committee recommended gold design MT-G-O-01 for the obverse and gold design MT-G-R-05 for the reverse. The Committee recommended this pairing of obverse and reverse designs by motion, with nine (9) members voting aye and one (1) member voting nay.

Committee members stated that the recommended obverse design, MT-G-O-01, was well-executed and would create an eye pleasing image of Twain on the smaller \$5 gold coin. Members felt the reverse design of the riverboat, as shown on MT-G-R-05, was a fitting tribute to Twain's early years living and working on the Mississippi River which, subsequently, become an important influence on the iconic literature he produced. Committee members commented that the two designs together would create a beautiful coin emblematic of Mark Twain.

The Committee recommended silver design MT-S-O-01 for the obverse for the silver dollar coin by motion, with six (6) members voting aye and four (4) members voting nay. The Committee recommended that United States Mint art staff look for ways to strengthen Twain's likeness for this design. Committee members commented that the design would create an eye-catching and appealing modern image on the large silver dollar planchet.

For the reverse of the silver dollar coin, the Committee recommended silver design MT-S-O-11 by motion, with nine (9) members voting aye and one (1) member voting nay. The motion further recommended the inscriptions on the design be changed as will be necessary for utilization as a reverse design and that Twain's signature be shown on the design where the date is placed on the submitted design. Members felt the images of various characters from

Twain's literature, as shown on the design, were visually appealing and appropriately emblematic of his work. Overall, members felt the pairing of the two recommended designs for the silver dollar coin would produce a very attractive commemorative coin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary B. Marks". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary B. Marks
Chair