

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2015

The Honorable Jack Lew
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

We, like you, believe America's currency sends a message both at home and abroad about our shared values, which is why we applaud your announcement that a notable woman will be featured on U.S. currency. However, we have to get that message right. We are concerned with your choice to feature a woman on the ten dollar bill, as opposed to the more prevalent twenty dollar bill.

As you know, the grassroots campaign to redesign the twenty dollar bill, Women On 20s, rightfully garnered the strong support of many Americans. The campaign highlighted that our currency is a way for our nation to make a statement about who we are and what we stand for. For this reason, we find it disappointing that Alexander Hamilton, one of the most influential interpreters of the U.S. Constitution, a passionate advocate for the abolition of slavery, and the founder of the nation's financial system, will be removed from our currency while President Andrew Jackson retains his place on the twenty.

Although President Jackson is celebrated for founding the modern Democratic Party, for his populist achievements, and for his military prowess, he was also a slaveholder responsible for the Trail of Tears, which forced southeastern Native American tribes into mass migrations that resulted in thousands of Native American deaths. President Jackson contributed to the United States' painful history in its treatment of Native Americans, one that we are still working to rectify. Furthermore, President Jackson was a fierce opponent of the central banking system and paper currency, making him an ironic choice to be immortalized on our currency.

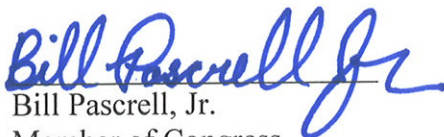
We understand that the Advanced Counterfeit Deterrence Steering Committee has recommended the redesign of the ten dollar bill due to concerns about counterfeiting. However, the decision to feature a woman on U.S. currency should be a thoughtful one and rooted in the desire to recognize her contributions to our country, not just secondary to other considerations. Our currency has been historically dominated by men, but the time has come for that to change.

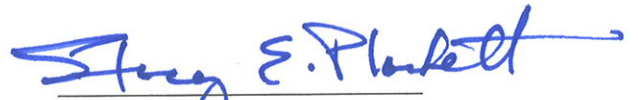
In order to provide this long overdue recognition for the significant achievements and contributions women have made to the United States, we urge you to feature a woman on a more utilized denomination, like the twenty dollar bill. As you know, in 2014, there were 8.1 billion twenty dollar bills in circulation, compared with only 1.9 billion ten dollar notes. Given the fact that men are currently featured on all six paper currencies and all four of the most commonly used coins, redesigning the less-circulated ten dollar bill in a way that features a notable woman with Hamilton, as has been proposed, is simply not adequate.


The decision to add a woman to our paper currency is an important step forward for our country. We reiterate our deep concern with the effort to remove Alexander Hamilton from the ten dollar bill while preserving President Jackson on the more heavily-utilized twenty dollar bill.

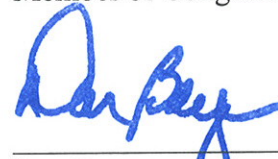
We hope to work with you to preserve Alexander Hamilton's place on our currency while elevating a woman to a place she deserves. Thank you for your consideration.

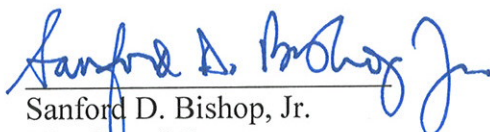
Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

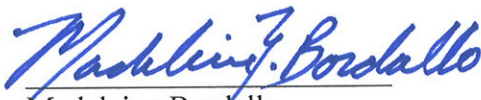

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress


Don Beyer
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

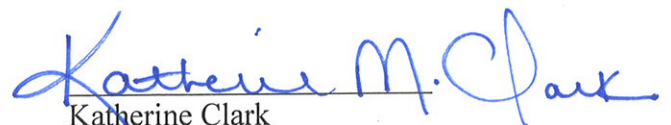

Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

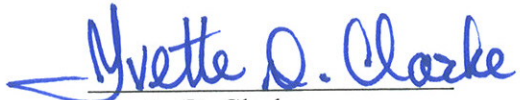

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

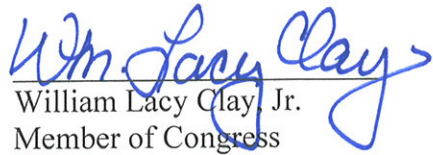

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

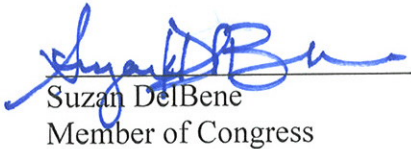

William Lacy Clay Jr.
Member of Congress



John Conyers
Member of Congress

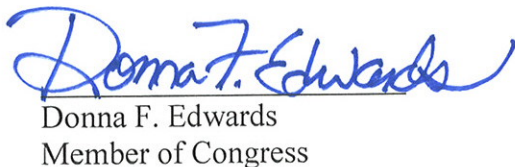

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


John Delaney
Member of Congress

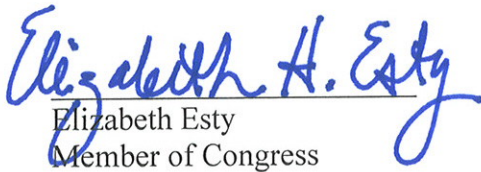

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

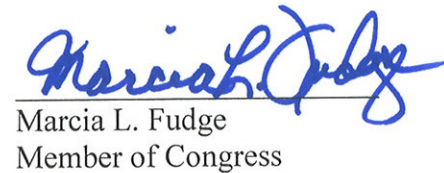

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

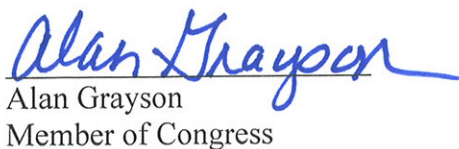

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

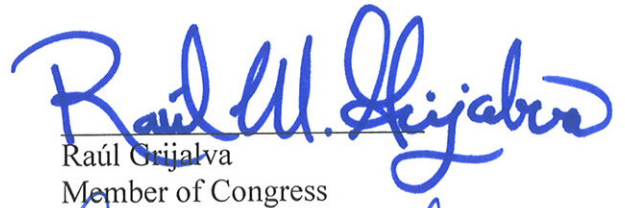

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

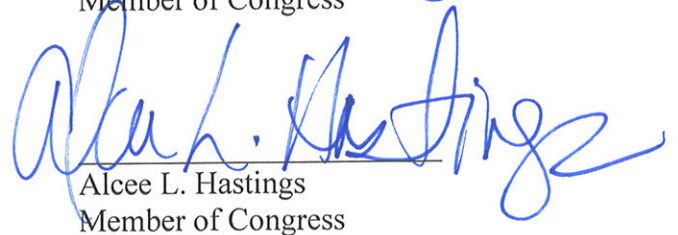

Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



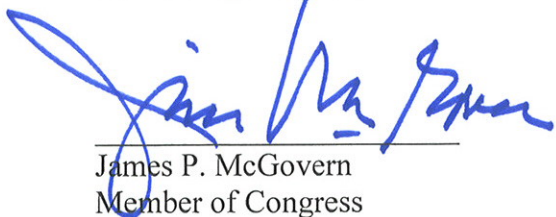
Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress




Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



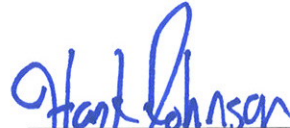
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



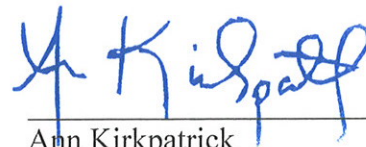
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



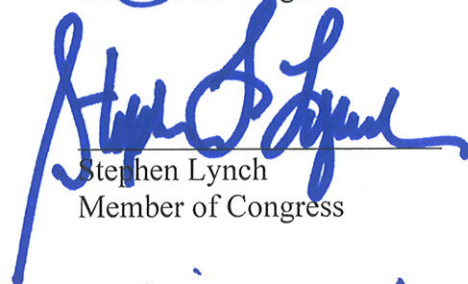
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



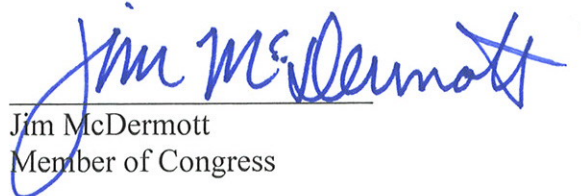
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



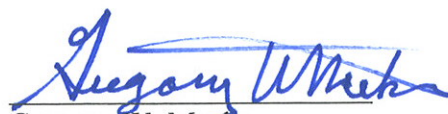
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



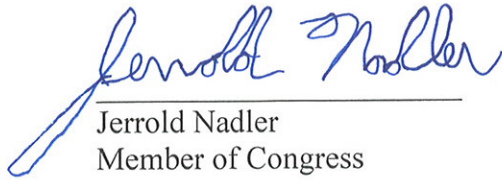
Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

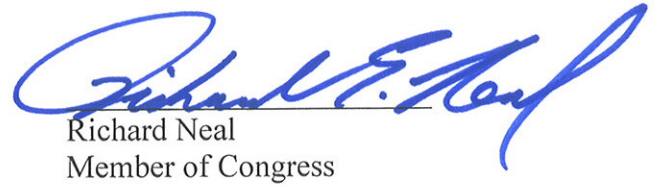


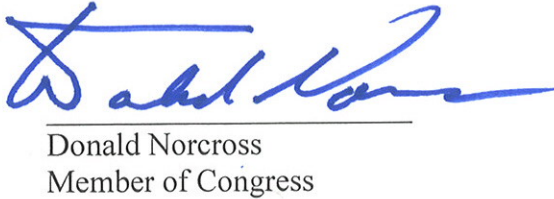
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

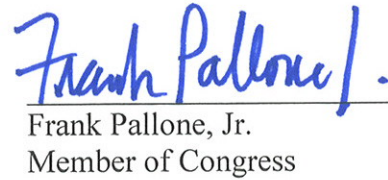


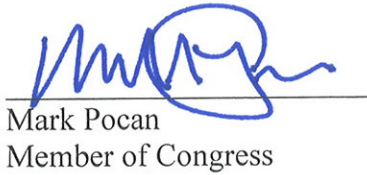
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

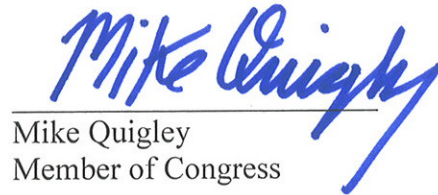

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

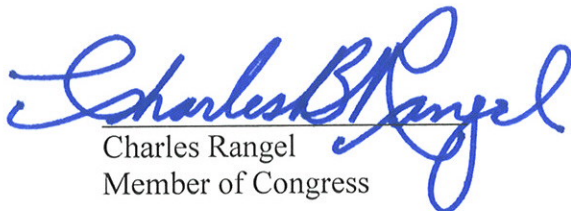

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

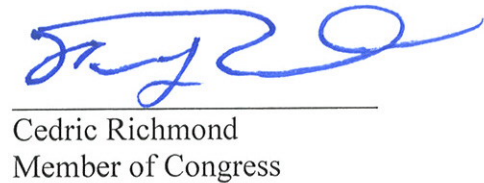

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

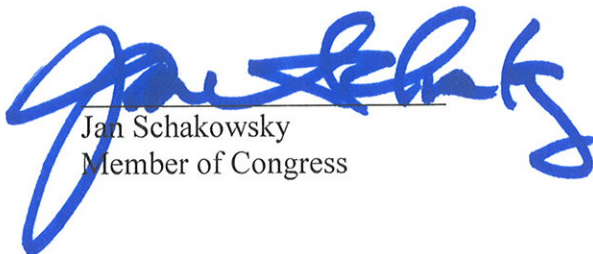

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

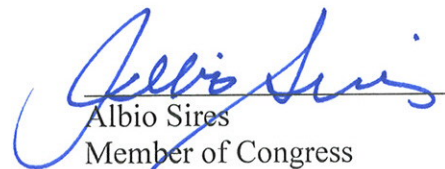

Charles Rangel
Member of Congress


Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

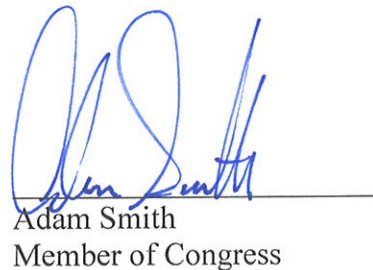

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

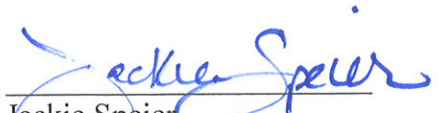

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

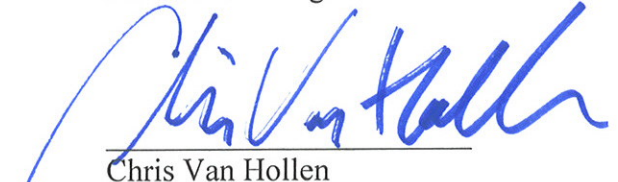

Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress


Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress


Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress