**Government of the District of Columbia**
Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia

Stephanie D. Scott, Ph.D.
Secretary of the District of Columbia

# Memorandum

**To:** Henry M. Paulson, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury

**From:** Stephanie D. Scott, Ph.D. Stephanie D Scott
Liaison to the U.S. Mint for the District of Columbia

**Date:** February 20, 2008

**Subject:** District of Columbia Quarter Design

This memorandum seeks to establish the propriety of using the phrase, "Taxation Without Representation" on the reverse of the quarter for the District of Columbia.

The Design Criteria for the 50 State Quarters Program request designs that: "promote the diffusion of knowledge among the youth of the United States about the state, its history and geography, and the rich diversity of our national heritage. Priority consideration will be given to designs that are enduring representations of the state." As reflected on our automobile license plates, the phrase "Taxation Without Representation" defines the District of Columbia. As the phrases "In God we Trust" and "Out of Many, One" have come to represent and symbolize us all as Americans, "Taxation Without Representation" has become an enduring representation of the District of Columbia.

Indeed, for the residents of the District of Columbia, Taxation Without Representation is more than a phrase, it is a daily fact of life. Since the District of Columbia was founded to be the nation's capital in 1801, the residents have not been fully represented in the United States Congress. Although the future of this status is not known, the issue itself is self evident and stands without either controversy or contravention.

After meeting with and hearing from residents throughout the District of Columbia, the Taxation Without Representation phrase is by far, the concept most often requested to be included in the design of the District's quarter. Our citizens see this as an opportunity-

similar to our license plates– to educate the general public, and to, in the words of the design guidelines, "promote the diffusion of knowledge" about the District of Columbia and our history.

All school children in the United States learn that one of the key events that sparked the American Revolution was the refusal of colonists to pay tax to a parliament in which they had no vote. The "Boston Tea Party" is taught as a proud episode in our shared national history, and a defining moment of the value Americans place on democracy. District residents pay Federal income tax and have fought and died in every war the United States has fought to protect our country and to further the cause of democracy abroad. In fact, although the residents of Washington, DC would prefer to have full representation, there are those who remind us that the Constitution of the United States specifically precludes full status. Thus the presence of our unrepresented status in the United States Constitution is an appropriate motif for U.S. currency.

Taxation Without Representation stands as an apolitical and non-partisan motto; a declarative and defining fact about the District of Columbia. We are neither advocating for any particular solution nor making any type of call to action. As such, we feel that this motto, like the distinguished mottos which appear on our currency today, would make a fitting, appropriate, dignified, historical, and educational addition to the design of the District of Columbia's quarter and we respectfully request your concurrence.