

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 24, 2018

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

I was disappointed to see recent reports suggest that the Department of the Treasury will be delayed in its efforts to re-design the \$20 bill. As you know, the Department announced its intention to feature Harriet Tubman on the front of this note and stated its goal for unveiling the new designs by 2020, in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. I write to request that you provide detailed information regarding the timeline and efforts at the Department of the Treasury to honor women who have contributed to our nation's history by meeting this important milestone.

The Department of the Treasury announced this decision in response to a grassroots campaign that engaged hundreds of thousands of Americans behind a common mission: placing the likeness of a woman who has contributed to our nation's history on our paper currency. After more than a half million votes online, the campaign suggested that the \$20 bill feature Harriet Tubman, a trailblazing role model whose life of fighting for freedom and her country can inspire young girls across the country. The Department of the Treasury's outreach confirmed this grassroots interest.

This recognition is long overdue. Women have been a critical part of our nation's history and values, and the lack of a woman on our American currency is glaring oversight. We handle paper currency every day, and the symbols on these bills represent American values and explain part of our identity as a nation. Unfortunately, the symbols on our paper currency have been reserved exclusively for men who have shaped our history. That's why the time has come to honor the contributions that women have made to our society, and reaffirm that women will be an important part of our future.

To ensure that we meet this objective, the Department of the Treasury announced plans to accelerate work to re-design the \$20 bill. This work includes efforts to ensure that our currency stays on the cutting edge and ahead of counterfeiters. However, recent reports have called into question whether the Department is working to meet this important milestone. To ensure transparency for Congress and the public, I request that you provide responses to the following questions:

1. Does the Department of the Treasury plan to meet its stated objective of unveiling a new design for the \$20 bill to feature the likeness of Harriet Tubman by 2020, the anniversary

of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment? If not, please explain why the Department will fail to meet this goal.

2. As part of the announcement of changes to the \$20 bill, the Department also indicated that the updated \$5 and \$10 bills would feature heroes of the women's suffrage and civil rights movements. Will the Department continue with its plans to change other notes, including the \$5 and \$10 bill, to tell the story of these movements?
3. What steps has the Bureau of Engraving and Printing done to accelerate work on the new \$20 note?
4. What information is available to the general public about the important historical figures and events that the Department plans to honor on the currency?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Neary on Senator Shaheen's staff at [chris\\_neary@shaheen.senate.gov](mailto:chris_neary@shaheen.senate.gov) or (202) 224-3052.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator