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January 4, 2012

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5401**

COMMITTEES:  
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The Honorable Richard A. Peterson  
Deputy Director  
United States Mint  
801 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20220-0001

Dear Mr. Peterson:

I am informed that the United States Mint is reviewing its plan to finance and facilitate public launch ceremonies for each of its coins scheduled to be issued in calendar year 2012. In particular, I am advised that, due to its current fiscal situation, the Mint may be reconsidering its earlier plans to provide for a public launch ceremony in Puerto Rico on or about January 23, 2012—less than three weeks from today—for the first coin scheduled to enter circulation this year as part of the Mint's *America the Beautiful Quarters Program*. As you know, this quarter honors my district, Puerto Rico, and features El Yunque National Forest, the sole tropical rainforest in the U.S. Forest System and a national treasure.

Given that all 10 preceding quarters issued since 2010 as part of this popular program have apparently been launched with public ceremonies financed by the Mint, I respectfully request that the Mint take all reasonable steps to provide similar arrangements for the issue of the 2012 El Yunque National Forest Quarter. The people of Puerto Rico have been looking forward to the issuance of this quarter with great excitement. This is because the quarter is emblematic of Puerto Rico's contribution to the national network of parks and special landscapes. The quarter reflects the Island's rich biodiversity and the premium our community places on its preservation.

A public launch ceremony for the El Yunque National Forest Quarter would demonstrate that the federal government values El Yunque no less than the 10 other sites already honored with a coin and ceremony. At the same time, a ceremony would enable the people of Puerto Rico to express their pride in and commitment to El Yunque in a dignified official setting. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to maintain earlier plans, developed in partnership with local stakeholders, to conduct a public launch ceremony in Puerto Rico for the El Yunque National Forest Quarter. Thank you for your consideration of this request. And thank you for the tremendous work the Mint has done to design quarters that capture the beauty of the United States and that tell the story of our national parks and public lands. Your work continues to fulfill the vision of Congress as embodied in *America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008*.

Sincerely,



Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress