

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2003

The Honorable John Snow
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to affirm our support for the image of Alexander Hamilton to remain on the face of the ten dollar bill. His patriotism, courage and intellect ensured American freedom and shaped the economic and political institutions that we enjoy today. It is our responsibility to uphold the honor of our founding fathers.

As one of your predecessors, and the first Secretary of the Treasury, we are sure that you are knowledgeable of the illustrious, yet often underappreciated public life of Alexander Hamilton. We both have deep roots in Paterson, New Jersey, a place that Hamilton helped to transform into one of America's first industrial centers. We would like to share some of the knowledge that we have learned studying Hamilton's life and theories while growing-up within the boundaries of his envisioned city.

Alexander Hamilton arrived in America as a poor immigrant from the Caribbean Island of Nevis. He attended school in New York before becoming involved in the American Revolution. Hamilton quickly proved himself a strong motivator, organizer and leader on the battlefield as he helped to deliver victories in the battles of Trenton, Princeton and Monmouth. By the conclusion of the war, Hamilton had become one of George Washington's most trusted aides and the leader of a heroic charge at the decisive Battle of Yorktown.

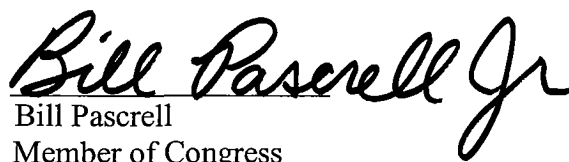
Following the war, Hamilton responded to America's call for a new government framework by serving as a delegate to the Continental Congress. Hamilton's extensive career as a statesman is noted by his defense of the Constitution and authorship of fifty-one of the *Federalist Papers*. In 1789, Hamilton served in George Washington's Administration as the first Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton's innovative mind afforded him the opportunity to use his new position to provide Americans with financial machinery including banks and public credit. He even initiated a military sea corps that is known today as the Coast Guard.

As we seek to spread freedom to countries throughout the world, we must not forget those who enabled us to enjoy the freedom that we live everyday. It is our hope that the ten dollar bill will continue to host the image of Alexander Hamilton and maintain timeless recognition for one of America's greatest patriots.

Sincerely,



Frank Lautenberg
U.S. Senator



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress