



DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES MINT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220-0001
November 17, 2017

The Honorable Frank Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4802

Dear Representative Lucas:

I am writing in response to the letter of October 27, 2017, from Representative Alex X. Mooney and you regarding the counterfeiting of United States precious metal coins.

I want to assure you that the United States Mint (Mint) shares your concerns about the issue of counterfeiting, and while this topic is not a new one, the increased opportunity and availability of materials to counterfeit precious metal coins have altered the discussion, and made this issue more relevant than ever.

The Mint is committed to safeguard the integrity and value of United States coinage, including our bullion coin programs. To that end, the Mint has proactively examined this important issue through one-on-one discussions in various domestic and international forums, and with industry leaders, sovereign mints, as well as our bullion coin program's Authorized Purchasers. On October 17, the Mint hosted its second annual Numismatic Forum, which included 68 industry leaders, to discuss marketplace issues and best practices.

Additionally, the Mint's leadership is dedicated to working with all stakeholders to study new anti-counterfeiting measures, including next-generation laser technology, to ensure that the Mint remains at the forefront of security innovations.

We also work closely with our customers and collectors to ensure their concerns are being heard and addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, in the past two years, we have not received any complaints about counterfeit current-issue gold, platinum or silver coins. When we have received complaints about potential counterfeit coins, deceptive or misleading advertisements by private sector entities, or misuse of the Mint's intellectual property by third parties, we have immediately taken appropriate action, or worked with other Federal agencies (including both the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as relevant) to address the issue.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate me, or your staff may contact the Mint's Acting Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Betty Birdsong, at betty.birdsong@usmint.treas.gov or (202) 354-7770.

Sincerely,

David Motl
Acting Deputy Director