

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES CASTLE'S NATIONAL PARKS QUARTER LEGISLATION -- June 25, 2008

New Quarter Program will move to Full House for Consideration

Washington, DC - The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services passed Delaware Congressman Michael N. Castle's America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008 (H.R. 6184) with strong bi-partisan support. This legislation would begin circulation of quarter dollar coins that are emblematic of a national park or other historic site in each state, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States. Rep. Castle introduced the program just two weeks ago and believes that it will be another successful initiative for the U.S. Mint by encouraging Americans to learn about our national parks while raising money for the U.S. Treasury.

"The Fifty State Quarters Program surpassed our expectations, so I have high hopes for these National Parks Quarters as well," said Rep. Castle. "The new series is proposed to start in 2010, right after the D.C. and territories quarters are issued for the state quarters. In order to meet this timeline, Congress needs to send this bill to the President quickly. In addition to simply spending money, I think it is our obligation to reduce the amount of taxpayer dollars we spend by supplementing revenues of the federal government with programs like this one."

The U.S. Mint estimates that the Fifty State Quarters Program will make more than \$6.2 billion in revenue, \$3.7 billion more than regular quarters alone. Members of the Financial Service Committee praised this new National Parks Quarters Program as it is projected to raise just as much money for the federal government.

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