

AMERICA'S BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARKS QUARTER BILL EASILY PASSES HOUSE -- July 9, 2008

Castle Says Saving Money for the Federal Government Makes "Cents"

Washington, D.C. -- Today, following the House passage of America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008 (H.R. 6184), Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE) issued the following statement:

"It is truly a rare opportunity in Congress to vote on legislation that will produce revenue for the federal government without raising or creating new taxes. This is an easy bill to understand as well as an easy bill to like. It was popular enough in Committee to pass by a 58-0 vote two weeks ago, and I am pleased to see that my colleagues in the House have also approved this bill by an overwhelming majority. The parks program is a natural follow-up to the state quarters. Nothing could be more logical than recognizing the sites all Americans hold most dear, such as our seashores, forests, wildlife refuges, and monuments. It is my hope that the Senate will send this bill to the President quickly since the National Park Quarters program would start in 2010 -- immediately after the D.C. and territories quarters are circulated for the state quarters."

The U.S. Mint estimates that the original state quarter program will make more than \$6.2 billion in revenue, \$3.7 billion more than regular quarters alone. Rep. Castle, who introduced this legislation just a month ago, believes that the program will be another successful initiative for the U.S. Mint along with numismatists, students, and all Americans. Many of his colleagues agreed as the bill passed by a vote of 419-0. Today, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), who worked with Rep. Castle on the Fifty State Quarters Program, Presidential Dollar Coin Act, and now the National Park Quarters, also expressed her continuing support for the bill.

"Heads or tails, this bill is a win for our national parks, our states, and our country. I applaud Congressman Castle's leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with him to pass this legislation," said Rep. Maloney, a member of the Financial Services committee and co-sponsor of the bill.

###