

Date

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Re: Commemorative Stamp Celebrating the Declaration of Independence &  
the Centenary of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

On July 4, 1776, American colonists took the brave step of issuing the Declaration of Independence, which proclaimed the right to freedom and independence as well as providing the justification for a new independent nation. Since 1776 the Declaration of Independence has continued to inspire generations of Americans with principles for the rights of the governed and standards by which leaders must govern. These principles have also inspired those who have pursued independence and freedom beyond our shores, and nowhere more so than in Ireland.

In the darkest days of the American Revolution, Ireland was one of America's earliest and staunchest allies. After the Revolution, Washington paid tribute to Ireland and expressed his hopes for its own liberty "*May the God of Heaven, in His justice and mercy, grant thee more prosperous fortunes, and in His own time, cause the sun of Freedom to shed its benign radiance on the Emerald Isle.*" When the Irish Patriot Albert Emmett was tried for his failed rebellion, he articulated his motives as "*I wished to procure for my country (Ireland) the guarantee which Washington procured for America*"

On April 24, 1916 Irish patriots fulfilling the vision of Washington and Tone, issued the Proclamation of the Irish Republic which reasserted Ireland's claim to freedom and nationhood. As with the American colonists whose Declaration of Independence came early in the struggle for independence, the 1916 Proclamation also inspired the Irish on their difficult journey towards the establishment the independent democracy.

A U.S. stamp which commemorates the issuance of the April 24, 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic would celebrate the values of both documents and the close bonds of friendship that have always existed between the American and the Irish people.

Respectfully,