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United States Treasury Department
Office of Public Correspondence
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Dollar Makers:

I have an idea for a new currency item for use in the American economy. I think it will revolutionize the individual commerce and spending habits of Americans and it will make life so much easier in so many countless ways.

I propose that we begin printing a new denomination of paper currency to represent the \$1.50 bill. There are so many items out there these days that are priced between 99 and 135 cents. Add 6-7% sales tax and you've got a prime purchase made for the "buck-and-a-half" bill.

I don't know how many times I have been at the cash register at the store and the clerk has either run out of quarters or has run out of \$1.00 bills and I have to wait for him or her to get change from the office or from another register and the line of customers behind me builds up and it just wastes everyone's time. And sometimes, if the office area is closed or if there are no other registers open, I end up with a pocket of change overloaded with dimes and nickels! The buck-and-a-half bill would virtually eliminate this problem altogether.

See the purchases from 99 to 135 cents (plus tax) would allow me to use a \$1.50 bill instead of 2 \$1.00's and that immediately saves the cashier from dispensing two preciously needed quarters back to me in change. (You have to figure that some people will avoid using buck-and-a-half's just like they did with the Susan B. Anthony and Sacagewea dollar coins, so those two extra quarters in the cash register spared from being change for my purchase will come in handy for one of the later buck-and-a-half boycotting bigots). Likewise, if my purchase came to within a few cents of any multiple of \$3.00, I could use two, four, or six \$1.50's to pay for my items and allow for a smaller number of plain old \$1.00's back in change, which is another item that the cashiers sometimes run low on.

I think you will find that my proposal has many benefits and no drawbacks. Instead of all the changes you are making to the paper and coin currency for a new fresh look, why not simply introduce a new denomination of currency altogether and revolutionize the way that we make change in this country all in one move? My buddy Árman Johannsson (no relation to Jake) is behind me all the way with this idea and he will confirm his support if you need any references.

Arman collects paper money from around the world and would really enjoy being one of the leading voices in the campaign to print the buck-and-a-half bill.

Obviously, if you chose to do this, it is up to your discretion as to what images to put on the buck-and-a-half. But might I propose our 13th President Millard Filmore. I think he would be a fine choice and I don't think he is currently on any current currency. The back of the buck-and-a-half bill could then be the Statue of Liberty or the Liberty Bell, or maybe even that other Philadelphian landmark that evokes tremendous pride in the American way... I am, of course, talking about the statue of Rocky Balboa with his arms raised high! The Italian Stallion! The Eye of the Tiger! "A-dri-annnnnnnnnnn!!!!!"

Truthfully, I would like to see an item of American currency depicting the great Jimmy Carter on its face, but he isn't dead yet and I think that is a pre-requisite for being placed on money and postage stamps. I KNOW that it is a pre-requisite for having your face added to Mount Rushmore.

Now you might be saying to yourself right now that Ronald Reagan has just recently died and that would make him an eligible candidate for the buck-and-a-half bill, but he is the one who beat Jimmy Carter for the election in 1980, so I would not be able to lend my support and/or consent to that selection.

Also, have you ever considered inviting 2003 "Texas Hold 'Em" World Series of Poker champion Chris MoneyMaker to be your national spokesman? I think that would be a classic good idea since his name is MoneyMaker, which is what you guys do. But maybe you don't want to project the image of gambling as being associated with your institution. Even so, I believe Mr. MoneyMaker is an accountant in real life, so you could push that occupation aspect and downplay the poker playing if you really wanted to. It was just another idea that occurred to me as I was writing this letter. I haven't talked to Chris about it. Maybe he wouldn't be interested at all, in which case you cannot force him.

Sincerely,

Rusty Lucas

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p.s. Do you have any baseball caps that have the American paper currency portraits on them? I have seen numerous novelty neckties with George or Abe or Benjamin, etc., but I prefer to wear baseball caps to neckties and I cannot seem to find any baseball caps with money images on them. If you happen to know of any or have one, could you send me one for free so that I can wear my money with pride on my head? I would be overjoyed! How ironic would that be if you gave me 'free money'?!? Even though the baseball cap technically isn't actual legal tender, it still looks like it!