

October 6, 2025  
*Sent via Electronic Submission*

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

On behalf of the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA),<sup>1</sup> I respectfully request that the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") restart the production of the penny, or one-cent coin, while developing a formal plan to phase out the production of the penny.

Recent public comments by President Donald J. Trump have reignited national interest in the cost and relevance of penny production. This appears to have prompted the Treasury to discontinue production of the penny, though no formal announcement has been made. Our member community banks are experiencing noticeable disruptions in penny availability, which greatly impacts their ability to serve individual customers and small businesses. The absence of an official statement and phaseout plan has led to a penny shortage before any strategy for managing halted production has been implemented.

Community banks serve as critical financial partners to small businesses and cash-reliant communities across the country. The lack of clarity surrounding penny processes has created operational challenges for banks and their customers, including:

- **Inventory Management:** Banks are experiencing inconsistent penny supply from Federal Reserve locations, with some sites ceasing fulfillment altogether along with reports of penny hoarding.
- **Retail Sector Impact:** Small businesses that rely on pennies for accurate cash transactions are facing rounding issues and customer dissatisfaction.
- **Customer Communication:** Without a formal Treasury statement and phaseout plan, banks are unable to provide definitive guidance to their consumer and retail customers regarding the future of penny circulation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Independent Community Bankers of America® has one mission: to create and promote an environment where community banks flourish. We power the potential of the nation's community banks through effective advocacy, education, and innovation. As local and trusted sources of credit, America's community banks leverage their relationship-based business model and innovative offerings to channel deposits into the neighborhoods they serve, creating jobs, fostering economic prosperity, and fueling their customers' financial goals and dreams. For more information, visit ICBA's website at [icba.org](https://icba.org).

We respectfully urge the Treasury to reconsider discontinuing penny production until a formal phaseout plan is developed and implemented. A phaseout plan, along with an official public statement, could help alleviate short-term issues while still fulfilling President Trump's goal to cease penny production. Implementing a planned phaseout would provide much needed clarity to community banks, retailers, and consumers. It would also allow community banks to better manage coin inventory, communicate with customers, and support cash-dependent businesses during this transition.

ICBA stands ready to work with the Treasury and the Federal Reserve to ensure transparent communication and a smooth adjustment for our stakeholders. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rebeca Romero Rainey  
President and CEO

cc: Luke Pettit, Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions  
Mark Gould, Chief Payments Executive, Federal Reserve Financial Services