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United States Senate

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July 29, 2020

Chairman Roy Blunt
U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt,

We are writing to request your support in passing S. 3423, which would bring a statue of Harriet Tubman to the Capitol Building in recognition of her extraordinary life and service to the nation.

Through the art in the Capitol, Congress makes powerful statements about our nation's history and values. From the Statuary Hall collection to the ceilings of the Brumidi corridors, we tell the story of our nation. From time to time, Congress authorizes new additions to its collection, and in recent years has honored Rosa Parks and Sojourner Truth.

Congress has an opportunity to recognize another of our nation's heroes, Harriet Tubman. Through the course of her life, Tubman showed extraordinary courage – escaping slavery, leading others to freedom on the Underground Railroad, operating an espionage network to fight the Confederacy, tending to the wounded as an army nurse, and devoting her later years to women's suffrage, the care of orphans, and the establishment of freedmen's schools. A statue of Harriet Tubman in our Capitol Building would be a powerful reminder to all visitors, from schoolchildren to foreign leaders, of the values she represents – strength, tenacity, equality, and compassion.

Because Harriet Tubman is a favorite daughter of Maryland, our state has passed legislation to facilitate the acquisition of a statue. They established the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission to work with the Joint Committee on the Library and Architect of the Capitol to raise private funds and procure a statue that is consistent with the art and architecture of the Capitol Building. Through this process, Congress would be gifted the statue at no cost to taxpayers.

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We appreciate that Ranking Member Klobuchar is an original cosponsor of S. 3423 to authorize acceptance of a Harriet Tubman statue, and hope that the Committee can work with us to pass this bill and bring this valuable new symbol into the Capitol collection. We look forward to the moment when Harriet Tubman is rightly recognized in these historic halls.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Van Hollen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "H".

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin L. Cardin". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a large initial "B".

BEN CARDIN
U.S. Senator

CC: Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar