

Opening Statement of Paul Hollis
Nominee to Serve as Director of the United States Mint
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
October 30, 2025

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and distinguished Members of the Committee: It is an honor to appear before you today as you consider my nomination to serve as the Director of the United States Mint.

I would first like to thank President Trump for this opportunity to serve our nation, and I would like to thank Secretary Bessent for his confidence in me.

I am also grateful to the Members and staff of this Committee who have taken the time to meet with me. I appreciate these opportunities to discuss your priorities, and, if confirmed, I look forward to working together.

I would also like to thank my family. First, my wife Ashley is here with me today. We met as strangers 30 years ago when I somehow managed to work up the courage to walk over and introduce myself to her while she was having lunch with her mom. Today, she works as a school nurse where my son attends school. I am also joined by my daughter Bree, who is in her senior year at the University of Alabama, where she is a straight A student! And my son, Zachary is here. Last month, he was elected Vice President of his student body.

One of my earliest and most vivid memories dates back to when I was just seven years old. My grandmother gave me a coin that she had saved during the Great Depression. That small gesture left a lasting impression that quietly steered the course of my life. Today, I keep the coin that she gave me nearly a half-century ago as a tribute to her. I have kept the coin in my pocket at every important milestone in my life. And of course, it is with me today, along with my first catalog of coins that I made when I was only eight years old.

Our nation's coinage is far more than just metal; our coins encapsulate America's history. Every coin carries with it a thoughtfully crafted design that is rooted in our shared heritage. As a child, I was drawn to these links between our past and our present. While my classmates gave oral reports on Babe Ruth and Amelia Earhart, I spoke about David Rittenhouse—the first Director of the United States Mint.

From an early age, coins were never just money to me, they were tangible links to our nation's history. That childhood passion grew into a lifelong pursuit. Over the past 30 years, I have built a respected career in numismatics, served 14 years in elected public office, and published a book on the history of U.S. coinage. And I have continued to share the educational power of coinage with audiences nationwide.

My public service includes 12 years as a State Representative in the Louisiana State Legislature, and I was elected in 2023 as one of eight elected members of the Louisiana State Board of Education. These roles have sharpened my ability to unify diverse voices, navigate complex systems, and deliver results within tight guidelines and timelines. As my background illustrates, I have spent a lifetime preparing for the role of Director of the United States Mint.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated the ability to build coalitions and inspire trust. I bring the same energy, optimism, and leadership style to this next chapter. If confirmed, I am committed to guiding the United States Mint—a multifaceted organization with responsibilities spanning production, design, law enforcement, marketing, and more—and to strive for added efficiencies. If confirmed, I will work diligently, so that I can return to Congress in the future and share an annual report that delivers a significant transfer to Treasury.

As we approach America's 250th anniversary, it is vital that we have a passionate ambassador for both our circulating coinage and our commemorative issues. My passion and experience that spans many decades has equipped me to energize audiences, share the captivating stories behind our coinage, and promote new designs with enthusiasm and vision. If confirmed, I am confident I can lead the U.S. Mint through this exciting and vital time in our nation's history.

With decades of public service and a lifelong devotion to numismatics, I am ready to bring my leadership to an institution as iconic and essential as the U.S. Mint. My journey has led me to this role—and, if confirmed, I am honored to serve.

Thank you again for your time today. I look forward to answering your questions.