Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2023

Mr. Louis DeJoy Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer United States Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We write today to strongly urge the United States Postal Service (USPS) to issue a semipostal stamp to help combat and raise awareness about the threat invasive species pose to our ecosystems. Every state and U.S. territory has at least some form of invasive plant or animal that tremendously impacts their natural biodiversity. An estimated 50,000 non-native invasive animal and plant species have been introduced to the United States, which imposes environmental and economic costs of up to \$100 billion each year.

We are committed to preserving our beautiful lands and communities for future generations. Acute impacts of invasives are specifically detrimental to ecosystems in Upstate New York and the North Country, which are home to some of the largest and most diverse ecosystems in New York State. These ecosystems are now inhabited by numerous invasive species that pose a great threat to the area, including the emerald ash borer, round goby, sea lamprey, invasive jumping worm, and the water chestnut, among many others. This semipostal would play a critical role in combatting invasive species in New York and around the country.

We are proud to promote efforts to prevent and control the spread of invasive species. This proposed semipostal stamp, the *Combating Invasive Species Semipostal Stamp*, would raise awareness about the threat invasive species pose to our natural ecosystems and fund research that will help combat these predators. The net proceeds from the sale of the semipostal stamp will play a critical role for a number of programs executed by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior to continue to combat invasive species.

Invasive species pose a serious threat to our natural ecosystems, significantly harm native plant and animal populations, and cause detrimental economic damage to local communities. We strongly urge you to consider issuing the *Combating Invasive Species Semipostal Stamp*, and join our efforts to help combat and raise awareness of the threat invasive species pose.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Elise M. Stefanik

Member of Congress

Mike Thompson Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Jill Tokuda Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney Member of Congress