

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Ronald A. Robinson, Chair
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service
1735 North Lynn Street
Room 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing in support of the issuance of a United States postage stamp to honor the 100th anniversary of hostelling in 2009. A proposal was submitted to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee on November 1, 2006 by Hostelling International USA, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that each year hosts nearly one million overnight stays by travelers from over 100 countries in their hostels. It is an organization that serves my state and my district.

Since its founding in 1909, hostelling has grown to be a global movement that has hosted more than 1.2 billion overnight stays worldwide by travelers of all ages, especially the young. By providing safe, affordable accommodations that promote the experiential education of travel, hostelling has made a unique and notable contribution to cross-cultural understanding in the United States and worldwide.

Hostels are basic communal accommodations that by their design facilitate interaction and exchange. Locations in areas of cultural, historic, and scenic interest promote education and tourism. Organized programs enhance the cross-cultural experience.

With decades of experience and thousands of international travelers using hostels and related programs every day, hostelling has brought the world to U.S. communities. Tens of thousands of U.S. youth groups and young adults take advantage of hostel settings and facilities as learning tools. For young people, hostels provide safe places to learn, explore, and collaborate with peers and adults.

I ask the Committee to give careful consideration to a postage stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of hostelling. Hostelling has made a significant contribution nationally and globally, and deserves our recognition.

Sincerely yours,