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October 28, 2010

John E. Potter, Postmaster General
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5670
Washington, DC 20260-2437

Jean Picker Firstenberg, Chairperson
Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee
U.S. Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Suite 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

Dear Postmaster General Potter and Chair Firstenberg:

I write once again to respectfully request that the U.S. Postal Service issue a stamp honoring "Diwali," also known as the Festival of Lights. The Citizen's Stamp Advisory Commission currently issues many stamps with holiday themes, including Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Eid. As such, I believe it would be appropriate to issue a stamp recognizing Diwali.

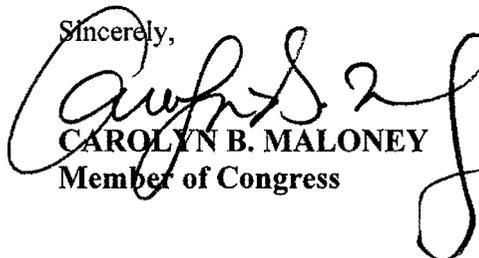
Diwali is one of the most important and colorful of the Indian festivals and is celebrated enthusiastically by Indians all over the world. It marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year and is seen as a brand new beginning for all.

The rich culture associated with the Diwali tradition includes observation of this holiday by Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Muslims and Buddhists including 1.8 million Indian-Americans. Diwali is a time for communal gatherings and spiritual enlightenment. People from across the world make an effort to visit their family, friends and neighbors on this wonderful holiday. The spirit of Diwali has survived political, economic and social vicissitudes throughout history, while always carrying the universal symbolism of the triumph of light, goodness, knowledge and truth.

Diwali is an important cultural celebration that deserves recognition. As the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee continues its plans for issuing new stamps, I respectfully request that you consider issuing a Diwali stamp to honor this holiday.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress