



July 21, 2025

Via E-Mail

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: United Steelworkers supports Representative McClain's amendment to H.R. 3074, the Common Cents Act.

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers union (USW), I write to express our support for H.R. 3074, as amended. This bill would authorize the use of zinc as an alternative metal in the production of nickels. This legislation would help protect American jobs, support domestic manufacturing, and generate savings for the American taxpayer.

USW represents workers across various industries, including the 250 employees at Artazn in Greeneville, Tennessee who manufacture zinc coin blanks, formerly used for the penny. Back in April, Representative McClain introduced H.R. 3074, which would have eliminated the penny. This narrow bill claimed to create fiscal savings given how expensive minting the penny had become; however, it would also have threatened the livelihoods of those 250 USW members. Furthermore, the savings claim was dubious because it currently costs approximately 14 cents to produce a single nickel.¹

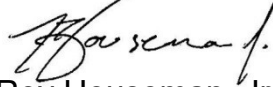
Fortunately, Representative McClain has offered an amendment to her original legislation, which creates a new opportunity for these workers to continue supplying zinc blanks to the U.S. Mint — now for the use of nickels. The proposed zinc-based alternative costs less than five cents to produce, has been actively tested by the U.S. Mint, and has demonstrated strong performance in terms of durability, functionality, and cost-effectiveness.

In closing, USW previously opposed H.R. 3074 since it threatened the livelihoods of our members at Artazn. However, with the inclusion of this amendment,

¹ [U.S. Mint](#), "2023 Annual Report", Accessed July 21, 2025.

the bill now offers a viable path forward that preserves jobs, supports American industry, and delivers savings to taxpayers. We urge you to support this amended version of H.R. 3074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Houseman, Jr.", written over the printed name.

Roy Houseman, Jr.
Legislative Director

Assistant to the International President