

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2021

Stamp Development
Attn: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Chairman Bolivar J. Bueno and Committee Members,

We are writing to respectfully request that the U.S. Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee approve an official U.S. postage stamp to commemorate the life and legacy of Jean-Louis Lebris de Kerouac. Better known as "Jack," this giant of American literature and favorite son of Lowell, Massachusetts merits a commemorative stamp as the centennial of his birth approaches.

Alongside Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs, Jack Kerouac ignited the literary movement in the 1950s known as the "Beat Generation." The movement's rebuke against traditional values and materialism created the foundation for subsequent counterculture movements in America and beyond. The "Beatles" took their name after the movement, while artists such as Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison from "Doors" cite Kerouac's work as major influences. The beatnik stereotype dominated popular media and culture in the 1950s and 1960s, an amalgamation of the Kerouac's self-expressive, unconventional characters. More than half a century since his death, Kerouac's novels still fire the imagination, particularly of young people, and serve as a tribute to their culture-changing origins.

As you may know, *On the Road*, first published in 1957, appears on Modern Library's list of 100 best novels. Other great 20th Century authors whose books appear on the list, including John Steinbeck, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, have each received the tribute of a commemorative stamp in the Postal Service's literary series. It would be fitting to provide that distinction to Kerouac by the time of his 100th birthday on March 12, 2022.

Previous requests of the Committee for a Jack Kerouac stamp have been made by other Massachusetts elected officials, including Paul Tsongas, Edward M. Kennedy, and John Kerry as well as Representatives Marty Meehan and Niki Tsongas. We implore you to, at last, approve this request and recognize the enduring contribution of Jack Kerouac's work.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan
U.S. Representative



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator