

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4802

June 9, 2021

Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

I write to you regarding U.S. gold reserves and the oversight activities of the U.S. Treasury.

During an exploratory hearing in 2011 before the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology of the Committee on Financial Services, a number of questions were raised that were inadequately addressed – including questions about auditing of U.S. gold held by the Federal Reserve and U.S. gold pledged to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

There is legislation pending that would improve security, accountability, and transparency as to America's gold. For example, I recently introduced H.R. 3526, the Gold Reserves Transparency Act of 2021. This legislation would provide for the first true audit of gold owned by the United States in more than 65 years. As Congress considers this important topic, please provide me with responses to the following questions:

1. According to testimony in 2011 by Mr. Gary Engel, the Director of Financial Management and Assurance at the Government Accountability Office, about 5 percent of the U.S. gold holdings were stored at the time at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He also stated that this gold is not considered “audited” and that no assaying or inventorying of that gold had occurred since at least 1986.

At the current time, what amount of U.S. gold holdings is vaulted at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (or by the Federal Reserve using other depositories)? Also, has this gold been recently audited, assayed, and/or inventoried? If so, please provide me with a copy of any relevant reports.

2. For what purpose(s) is United States gold bullion stored at the Federal Reserve?
3. According to testimony by Mr. Engel, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York holds gold for other nations as well. Is the U.S.-owned gold stored at the Federal Reserve held in a physically segregated manner from the holdings of other nations?
4. During the 2011 hearing, Rep. Luetkemeyer referenced a report that 261 million ounces in U.S.-owned gold is part of the IMF's reserves. At present, how many ounces of U.S.-owned gold are in the possession of the IMF or pledged to the IMF – and where is that

gold kept? Also, please describe the purpose and nature of this arrangement as well as what oversight procedures are in place.

5. How much U.S.-owned gold is in the possession of and/or used by the Exchange Stabilization Fund as part of its activities? What is the purpose and nature of the ESF's gold activities?
6. Please provide details as to what U.S.-owned gold is currently pledged, swapped, leased, or otherwise encumbered – and for what purposes -- including, but not limited to, arrangements involving the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), World Bank, IMF, and other financial institutions, foreign or domestic.

I look forward to receiving your answers to the above questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex X. Mooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "X" and a long, sweeping underline.

Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

Cc: Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States