



March 10, 2021

Representative Troy Waymaster  
Chairman  
Kansas House Committee on Appropriations  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10th Street, Room: 111-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Waymaster:

I wanted to thank you for considering HB2253 in your committee, which would establish an official organization in Kansas to commemorate 250 years since the United States of America declared its independence as a nation.

I have the honor of serving as Chairman of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, which was formed by Congress to lead the nationwide commemoration of this historic milestone. The America 250 Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit, serves as the operational arm of the Commission. Together, the Commission and Foundation envision the America 250 commemoration as a monumental, multiyear initiative, engaging all Americans in what we expect to be the largest and most inclusive anniversary observance in our nation's history.

Starting now and running beyond 2026, this nonpartisan effort will consider the full scope of American history, from the pre-revolutionary era to today; will engage all states, territories, tribes, and communities across the country, as well as millions of friends worldwide; and will focus on themes of Educating, Engaging, and Uniting each and every American.

We anticipate nearly 125,000 programs—the vast majority of which will be state- and territory-led initiatives—involving unprecedented engagement with residents, and resulting in billions of dollars in resources that will ripple through local, state, and territorial economies.

State and territorial involvement is the Commission and Foundation's top priority, and we plan to work in full partnership with each state's and territory's official America 250 entity in order to support planning efforts across the country and to facilitate a nationwide collaborative network. Through these commissions or organizations and their programs, states and territories will have the opportunity to highlight their unique stories and contributions throughout American history.

As we envision the potential of this historic undertaking and the legacy it will leave, we look forward to working with you and hope you will soon join those states and territories that have already established their official America 250 organizations.

Please contact me or Kelsey Millay, Director of State Partnerships for the America 250 Foundation, at [kmillay@america250.org](mailto:kmillay@america250.org) or 610-291-2151 to schedule a time when we can talk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. DiLella", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Daniel M. DiLella  
Chairman, U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission  
[ddilella@america250.gov](mailto:ddilella@america250.gov)