



September 9, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

As our nation approaches the momentous occasion of its 250th anniversary, we want to thank you for your leadership and commitment to preserving and promoting our shared national heritage. The upcoming commemorations offer an extraordinary opportunity to reflect on our founding ideals and to reengage Americans in the story of our nation's past, present, and future.

Over the past several years, we have advocated for meaningful investment in America 250 (A250) activities, with a focus on ensuring celebrations are rooted in local communities through the support of more than 21,000 history organizations across the country. We are pleased that \$150 million in funding for A250 was secured in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025.

We respectfully urge you to allocate a portion of the funding provided under Section 50305 of the OBBBA directly to the 56 state and territorial A250 commissions. Doing so will empower communities across the nation to participate in, and shape, commemorations reflective of their individual histories and contributions to our shared national story.

In Idaho, partnerships between communities and local history organizations have proven to be an essential asset in educating young Idahoans and preserving our state's unique history. State A250 commissions, like Idaho's, stand ready to replicate and leverage this successful model to inspire a renewed sense of unity and purpose on our nation's semiquincentennial milestone, bringing this celebration to every American's door.

As the 1776 Commission affirmed in its final report in President Trump's first term, this upcoming anniversary can "enable a rising generation to understand the history and principles of the founding of the United States in 1776 and to strive to form a more perfect union." Investing in state A250 commissions will not only help preserve and share America's story, but also promote civic engagement.

The 250th anniversary of the United States is an opportunity to support local history organizations that can bring history to life for millions of Americans. Like the bicentennial in

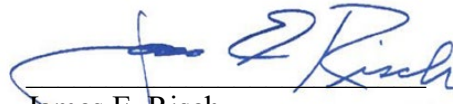
1976, the 250th can serve as a catalyst for civic renewal—encouraging Americans to reconnect with core ideals such as liberty, justice, and freedom, and pass them on to the next generation.

Thank you for considering this important request. By investing in local communities through A250, we have a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for our country.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mike Simpson
United States Representative



Russ Fulcher
United States Representative