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**Senate Government Oversight Committee
Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 Sponsor Testimony
Support Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial
May 31, 2023**

Lang: Chair Roegner and Vice Chair Antani, Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 is a resolution to support the work of the America 250 Ohio Commission as it prepares for the United States of America's celebration of 250 years of existence.

The America- 250 Ohio Commission was created by the 134th General Assembly to ensure Ohio is a leader in the celebrations of our national anniversary, in the same way Ohio is foundational within American history.

The Commission is ensuring that the 250th anniversary celebrations will be community oriented by taking an 88-county approach. They will support the individual efforts of local partners to amplify their individual histories and celebrations by providing grants, matching funds, and marketing services. For each district represented in the General Assembly, there will be a host of celebrations of the unique and diverse histories and cultures of each community.

Chair Roegner, your district contains beautiful pieces of Ohio's natural landscape that could be highlighted during anniversary celebrations. Beyond its gorgeous landscape, Cuyahoga Valley National Park is home to many interesting pieces of American history. It has been occupied for over 12,000 years and was central to the development of the Great State of Ohio. It is known as the "Heartland of America to the Eastern Seaboard" for its role in Great Lakes Commerce and is a crucial piece of history to recognize upon this anniversary.

Vice Chair Antani, your 6th Senate District is home to the Miamisburg Mound Park, one of the largest conical mounds in Eastern North America. Measuring 65 feet tall and 800 feet in circumference, the mound contains an impressive 54,000 cubic yards of earth. Built by the Adena culture, this mound serves as a reminder of Ohio's deep history, and will be an important piece of early American history we must honor during our celebrations.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, and I would like to invite my cosponsor to give testimony at this time.

Craig: Thank you Chair Roegner and Vice Chair Antani for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 5. Ohio history is American history.

Senator Hicks-Hudson, Toledo is known as the “glass city” and is foundational to both Ohio and American history. Its crucial location on Lake Erie has made it a hub for Ohio’s manufacturing industry. One site I enjoy in Toledo is the Art Tatum Celebration Column, a 30-foot statue of piano keys that honors legendary jazz pianist Art Tatum. Despite blindness in one eye and only partial sight in the other, Tatum became one of the most renowned jazz pianists in history. His legacy is an important piece of American musical history we can celebrate during the 250th Anniversary of America.

Senator McColley, your district contains what was once known as “The Great Black Swamp”. After the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, European settlers began to reside in what is now Napoleon, Ohio. Due to the town’s location on the Miami and Erie Canals, as well as two railroad lines, the city of Napoleon grew rapidly. Symbolic of development along the Maumee River, Napoleon, Ohio, is a key piece of America’s 250 years of history.

Supporting the work of the America 250- Ohio Commission will allow each of these sites, as well as many more, to be celebrated by the commission. Each community is a key piece of American History, and the work of the commission will be crucial to highlight Ohio’s historical assets.

Ohio has a rich, diverse history, and each of our communities has a story to tell. The 250th Birthday of the United States of America is an opportunity to showcase our common values, history, and celebrate the wonderful place we each represent.

My joint sponsor and I appreciate the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on SCR 5 to the committee, and we would be happy to take any questions.