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Joe Miller

State Representative - District 53

Thank you Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey and the members of the House Government Oversight Committee for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on HCR 6, a concurrent resolution intended to support the work of the Ohio 250 Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, which celebrates the nation's 250th anniversary.

The 134th General Assembly created the Ohio Semiquincentennial Commission to cement Ohio's leading role into the nation's anniversary, and so far it has proven to be a national leader in preparation. This is Ohio's time to demonstrate how significant Ohio has been in shaping national stories, contributing to the economic development of the nation, and Ohio's impact on the American way of life.

The Commission's 88-county approach to the anniversary will ensure that all communities which choose to participate will have resources and expertise available to help achieve their local goals. A majority of the state dollars used will go towards providing grants, matching funds, and marketing for local communities. The Commission will not be hovering over every local government and organization, but rather supporting individual efforts that make sense for local communities. The goal is to amplify local efforts and have this initiative bring people together to celebrate Ohio's accomplishments. For every district represented here in the House Government Oversight Committee, there are dozens of events and initiatives that highlight each district's unique qualities that will bring tourists, economic activity, and unity.

Chair Hall, the Middletown Arts Center in your district would be an excellent example of a place to celebrate and bring people together. Vice Chair Ferguson, the Belleview Park in Steubenville could be a great place to hold events to honor America's 250th anniversary. Ranking Member Humphrey, the Whitehall Food Truck & Fun Fest in your district would be a great opportunity to highlight the America 250-Ohio celebration.

These are just a few examples of how the communities in each district can become involved in the America 250 celebration.

I will now turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Holmes.

