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Testimony of Rep. Sean Paulhus presenting
**LD 1029, Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Commemorate the 250th
Anniversary of the Founding of the United States**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and distinguished members of the State and Local Government Committee, I am Sean Paulhus, Representative for House District 50, the city of Bath. I am glad to be here to present **LD 1029, Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States.**

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding. To observe this momentous occasion, states across the nation are forming commissions to plan and execute a celebration that will include historical and educational events, activities and programs highlighting Maine's role in the founding of our nation. This resolve would establish Maine's own commission to develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

America250 is the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission that was established by Congress in 2016 to help jumpstart a nation-wide anniversary observance that helps to honor, celebrate and accurately portray our nation's history in a way that is as inclusive and forthright as possible. Maine contributed significantly to the creation of the Union in a number of ways, and I view this event as an opportunity to showcase some of those important contributions.

Through this resolve establishing the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission, it is my hope that we can regroup ourselves in a richer understanding of where we came from, who we are and where we'd like to go – as a state and a nation. By bringing some of this history to the foreground in an engaging and entertaining manner with support from local businesses, non-profits and especially the State Archivist, I believe that we will successfully elevate the complex and diverse stories that make up our state and demonstrate the value and durability of the American project, particularly as it relates to our investment in and service to our communities here in Maine.

An amendment has been introduced by the State Archivist that I support. The amendment would add two members to the commission: a representative from the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations and the Executive Director of the Maine Arts Commission or their designee.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this resolve, and I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.