



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Representative Randy Greenwood, proudly representing my friends and neighbors in Litchfield, Monmouth, and my hometown in Wales, both in Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties. I am here today to present L.D. 616, "An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission to Commemorate the United States of America's 250th Birthday in 2026 and to express my strong support for this bill.

The last 249 years of American history are filled with fascinating, inspiring and thought-provoking stories. That's true on the grand, national scale, and it is true down to the very local scale of the towns in my district – and in all of yours. Did you know that the town of Monmouth is named in tribute to Continental Army General Henry Dearborn, who fought side-by-side with George Washington at the Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey in 1778? After the war, he settled near to here on land in an area he'd first encountered on a 1775 trek to Quebec to attack British forces. He helped to found a local school and eventually was the inspiration to the name of the town at its incorporation in 1792.

America's history is filled with stories like this, and LD 616 will help local institutions tell them. The bill provides one-time funding of \$250,000 for the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission to pay for public programs as a state match to private funding. This state match funding will help enterprising local institutions supplement private fundraising in order to help them share our country's soon-to-be 250 years of history with the public.

As a lover of history and the towns of my district, I encourage you to join me in supporting LD 616.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.