



March 18, 2024

Via E-Mail Delivery

Senator Fong Hawj, Chair  
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
3231 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Justin Eichorn, Lead Republican  
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
2235 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj and Lead Eichorn:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support of SF3289, legislation introduced by Senator Jeff Howe, which provides for funding to plan events examining one of the most important moments in our nation's history.

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look forward to the future that we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

Several federal and state agencies and community organizations have already begun work on planning events and activities for 2026 to commemorate the signing of the declaration of independence. Minnesota has joined 45 states in establishing a commission to begin this work.

The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) has been working with our federal partner, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), as well as state organizations such as the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) in beginning to plan the 250th anniversary. MHC and MHS believe that this window of time presents a unique opportunity to learn and explore our nation's past, create educational materials for schools and communities, and create opportunities for the people of Minnesota to dialog with one another on how to build a society that moves us toward attaining the vision sets forth within the Declaration of Independence.

SF3289 provides important funding to ensure Minnesota's Commission has adequate planning resources in FY25 to coordinate with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission as well as with local and state partners. I encourage the committee to include SF3289 language and funding in the Legacy Omnibus bill.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lindsey  
CEO