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Congress of the United States
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June 26, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

I write to express my concern and to request transparency from the Administration regarding the reports that America250, the bipartisan commission established by Congress, has only received \$25 million of the \$100 million expected from the Administration.¹ As a result, America250 is facing a funding shortfall, with limited resources as we approach July 4th and the celebrations of the Semiquincentennial.

America250, established by the *United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016* to plan a nonpartisan, civic-focused commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding,² should have received the federally appropriated funds allocated to the Secretary of the Interior for the National Park Service, explicitly designated for events, celebrations, and activities marking the Semiquincentennial.³ Tax-payer funds have been reported to be dispersed to Freedom 250, established by the Administration in December of 2025. It is important to note that when Congress allocated the money for the Semiquincentennial, Freedom 250 did not exist, and the only congressionally authorized group is America250.

The use of taxpayer funds for an organization that has not been formally approved by Congress raises serious questions about where these funds are going and what they are being used for. I am requesting answers to the following questions by July 2, 2026:

1. Is the Department of the Interior able to provide a report on the use of taxpayer funds obligated to the agency that have been used for Freedom 250?

¹ <https://www.notus.org/trump-white-house/america-250-shortfall-freedom-250-interior-funds>

² Public Law 114-196.

³ Public Law 119-21, Sec. 50305.

2. Was the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission involved in the dispersing of funds to Freedom 250?
3. Does the Administration plan to disperse additional funding to America250 to address the funding shortfall and obligation of \$100 million?
4. Do Freedom 250 and America250 coordinate in their efforts with the agency, whether related to programming or funding?

The 250th Anniversary of our great nation should be embodied as a non-partisan celebration to commemorate the values of freedom, democracy, and unity. These principles make our country exceptional, and it is imperative on us as leaders to honor our past and inspire our future generations through the responsible use of taxpayer funds.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to working with you to celebrate our great nation.

Sincerely,



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress