



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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January 4, 2024

The Honorable Bill Gannon
and the Senate Commerce Committee
State House, Rm 100
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: SB 331-A relative to certain historic commemorations

Dear Chair Gannon and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources ("Department") regarding SB 331-A relative to certain historic commemorations. My name is Matthew Flanders; I am the Chief of the Bureau of Historic Sites that manages Fort Constitution in New Castle. I also serve as the chair to the American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission.

The American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission was established in 2022 under HB 1441, and is charged with organizing, arranging, and coordinating tributes to the American Revolution culminating with a publicized event on July 4, 2026, relating to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 2023, SB 103 added to the Commission's planning activities the raid on Fort William and Mary, now known as Fort Constitution, through a publicized event on December 14, 2024.

SB 331-A will enable the Commission to collaborate with the Liquor Commission to manufacture commemorative bottles to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution under the Liquor Commission's historical fund program in RSA 177:8. The proceeds from the sale of the commemorative bottles will be deposited in the American Revolution sestercentennial trust fund to help support the work of the American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB 331-A. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Matthew Flanders
Chief, Bureau of Historic Sites

C: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Brian J. Wilson, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation

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