

# United States Senate

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

May 6, 2025

Dear President Trump:

I write to you today to respectfully request the immediate removal of Ms. Rosie Rios from her position as Chair of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission — the organizing body tasked with planning and overseeing the celebration of our nation’s 250th anniversary. The creation of the commission was signed into law in 2016 and provides the President of the United States the ability to choose the chair of the Commission.<sup>1</sup>

Ms. Rios, who served as U.S. Treasurer under President Obama, was appointed as Chair of the Semiquincentennial Commission by President Biden in 2022, replacing your first selection as Chair, Daniel DiLella,<sup>2</sup> under highly dubious and controversial circumstances.<sup>3</sup>

Ms. Rios has a track record of extreme partisan bias against you and your administration. In July 2016, she insisted that “nothing good” could come from your presidential candidacy. For the Chair of our Semiquincentennial Commission to repeatedly make statements denigrating your vision to put America first, which received the support of tens of millions of Americans, is concerning. As we get closer to the anniversary, her continued role as chair of the committee could serve as a detriment to this historic celebration. As President, you have the authority to ensure that this important commission is led by someone who does not give in to cheap partisan attacks on you and your administration’s priorities.

I respectfully request you reconsider Ms. Rios as Chair of the committee. By removing Ms. Rios and ushering in new leadership for the Commission, you can appoint someone you can trust to plan and execute our Semiquincentennial celebration, so the event commemorating America’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary can be an unforgettable event that will be the envy of the world.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Schmitt  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup> See Pub. Law. 114-196 §4(b)(2)(E) (“one of whom shall be designated by the President as the Chairperson.”).

<sup>2</sup> See Jess Bravin, *Biden Replaces Head of Project to Commemorate 250th Anniversary of U.S.*, WALL ST. J. (July 29, 2022), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/biden-replaces-head-of-project-to-commemorate-250th-anniversary-of-u-s-11659096002>.

<sup>3</sup> See Jess Bravin, *Officials Planning America’s 250th Anniversary File Lawsuit Against Colleagues*, WALL ST. J. (Mar. 16, 2023), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/officials-planning-americas-250th-anniversary-file-lawsuit-against-colleagues-4e14bde> (“Former chairman alleges some commissioners conspired to get him replaced”).