



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY RHODEN | GOVERNOR

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to invite you to a spectacular celebration that South Dakota intends to hold to honor America's 250th Birthday. South Dakota is excited to work with your administration to bring back the Mount Rushmore Fireworks Celebration for Independence Day! Please consider this a formal invitation to come to Mount Rushmore for Independence Day in 2026 to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday with fireworks.

Within the last few days, you announced the White House Task Force on Celebrating America's 250th Birthday (Task Force 250). Subsequently, our neighbor Doug Burgum was confirmed as your Secretary of the Interior by a resounding margin. We relish the opportunity to work with both Secretary Burgum and Task Force 250 to plan a celebration that will draw the attention of the entire nation and the world.

Five years ago, I had the honor of sharing the stage with you for the 2020 Mount Rushmore Fireworks Celebration. It is a day I will never forget. That day reminded the nation of the importance of our history and the monumental leaders honored on that mountain. Governor Noem worked closely with you to make bring fireworks back to Mount Rushmore, and I hope to do so again.

Before she left to faithfully serve in your administration, my dear friend Kristi Noem gave her last State of the State Address in which she said:

In the coming days, we will once again move forward with planning to return fireworks to Mount Rushmore for America's birthday. Get ready America – our nation's 250th birthday is coming up in 2026. And South Dakota is going to throw the biggest birthday party ever at Mount Rushmore.

I can't say it any better than that. We are ready to throw the biggest birthday party ever for the United States of America. And there is no better place to do it than Mount Rushmore. I trust that you will work closely with us to make it happen, and we cannot wait to see you there.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Rhoden".

Larry Rhoden  
Governor of South Dakota

Cc: Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum  
Senate Majority Leader Senator John Thune  
Senator Mike Rounds  
Congressman Dusty Johnson