



Dear *(insert name of Congressional staff)*,

My name is *(insert name)* and I am a resident of the State of *(insert state name)*. I am also a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) in the State of *(insert state name)*.

Founded in 1897, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. There are well over 10 million Americans who are Mayflower descendants. Our membership consists of 30,000 individuals who can trace their direct lineage from one of the passengers who travelled to America on the *Mayflower* in 1620.

As you may know, Congressional Coin Bills have been introduced in the House by Rep. Foster (IL) and in the Senate by Senator Hoeven (ND). The bills direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower.

Congressional coin bills are relatively routine. Some examples of previously passed coin bills include the commemoration of the bicentennial of Congress as well as a coin honoring Boys Town. Coin bills are revenue-neutral and will not be an additional burden on the American taxpayer.

Proceeds from the surcharge of the sale of coins will be shared with the Wampanoag Nation, designated not-for-profit organizations in Plymouth and all 51 GSMD State Societies. The proceeds will be used to fund educational, scholarship and outreach programs to help keep alive the incredible history of the Pilgrims – including a 50 year peace treaty with the Wampanoags and the creation of Mayflower Compact which influenced the U.S. Constitution and was our country's first example of self-governance in the new world. It will also help to bring alive the story behind why Americans celebrate Thanksgiving each year.

In order for the bill to reach the floor for a vote it must have two-thirds of the Members of the the *(House/Senate)* as co-sponsors. On behalf of the of the *(insert state name)* Mayflower Society I respectfully request that *(Representative/Senator insert name)* become a co-sponsor of the legislation.

Please contact Tyler Hardy in Senator Hoeven's office at Tyler_Hardy@hoeven.senate.gov or Gary Timmins in Representative Roberts' office at gary.timmins@mail.house.gov to sign on as a co-sponsor.

I have attached a copy of the bill for your review. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

(insert name)