

Office of Lieutenant Governor David Wasinger

Missouri State Capitol
201 Capitol Ave., Room 224
Jefferson City, MO 65101

February 25, 2026

Dear Lt. Governor Wasinger,

I love America because we have the freedom to pursue our desires, express our thoughts, and believe in what we choose without the fear of persecution. We owe this to our First Amendment rights. Additionally, America offers limitless opportunities. In this country, if you can dream it, you can achieve it, and no one will stop you from doing so.

Another reason I cherish this country is that it allows me the freedom to express my creativity and artistic talents, which I might not have the chance to do in other countries that lack such freedoms. My parents immigrated here from Yugoslavia, and the contrast between their homeland and America is striking. In Yugoslavia, poverty was widespread, there was political repression, and freedoms were severely restricted. The communist regime brutally suppressed democratic freedoms and ethnic nationalism through a state security apparatus. It was a one-party state where censorship was common, and critics of the regime faced imprisonment. In America, we don't have a single party controlling everything, and you won't be imprisoned simply for criticizing the government. I am at peace every day knowing I can express myself freely without retribution.

I also appreciate America's diverse geography. This country boasts a wide variety of landscapes, from mountains to beaches, and has a strong National Park system that offers accessible, breathtaking nature experiences.

Overall, I love this country because it affords me freedoms and opportunities I wouldn't have elsewhere, along with our beautiful natural scenery.

Sincerely,
Mia Mruckovski