



## The Mountaineer Partnership, Inc.

Mr. Thom Thomas & Ms. Patty Wissinger  
Southern Campaign of the Revolution Heritage Area Study  
US Department of the Interior  
National Park Service, Denver Service Center  
12795 West Alameda Parkway, P. O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Thomas & Ms. Wissinger:

I am writing in support of and on behalf of the inclusion of Cleveland County (and thus the City of Kings Mountain) in the designation of the Revolutionary Heritage Area for parts of North and South Carolina. I am the Executive Director of The Mountaineer Partnership Inc, the downtown association for the City of Kings Mountain, located in the shadow of the mountain near the ridgeline where the historic Kings Mountain Revolutionary battle took place.

As I stand on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story balcony from my office, I gaze at the mountain for which our city, my organization, and this great community so proudly takes its heritage and name. I am certain that you will also see the importance of including Cleveland County, named for Revolutionary Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, and Kings Mountain, named for the nearby "tide turning" battle, as a key area for inclusion in the Southern Campaign Revolutionary Heritage Area. Our community and its citizens have a deep connection and identification with their Revolutionary past unrivaled by other communities in part because of the forefathers and ancestors who fight in the battle of Kings Mountain, whom many of which are buried in local cemeteries, and their descendants who still live here and call this area home. This identification with this rich heritage is pulsing through every vein of the community and is evident in such things as:

- the naming of the city **Kings Mountain**,
- the many annual events held here such as the **Over the Mountain Triathlon**
- naming of local restaurants such as **Mountainview Family restaurant**
- the art in our downtown streetscape such as a **wall mural depicting Revolutionary era scenes**
- the naming of our municipal park and festival site **Patriots Park**
- the naming of Kings Mountain high school mascot **The Mountaineers**
- our local **postage stamp** depicting the battle of Kings Mountain
- life size **wall paintings of the Kings Mountain battle** located in city hall
- the naming of the Downtown Association **The Mountaineer Partnership Inc.**
- the annual center city Christmas Celebration **Mountaineer Christmas**
- and the creation of the **new NC DOT license plate** commemorating the Battle of Kings Mountain
- nearby bed and breakfast named **The Inn of the Patriot**
- and the proposed **American Revolutionary War Living History Center**, Museum, and conference center

Kings Mountain downtown is located just 6 miles north of where the actual battle of Kings Mountain took place and is the only community where you can take 2 exits from interstate I-85 to head to the Kings Mountain Battleground and State Park. The completion of the Kings Mountain Gateway Trail with its with 4 to 7 miles of trails for biking and hiking is currently under construction and will serve to connect our center city downtown to Kings Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain National Military Park, Crowders Mountain State Park, and The Overmountain Victory Trail. We are fast becoming a destination for parks and trails and hope that this rich and unique connection with the history and landscape of our community will allow us to attract and educate visitors. This designation as the revolutionary area is another important step in making this region a tourist destination.

Please consider this important initiative for the Carolinas, Cleveland County, and the City of Kings Mountain!

Sincerely,

Adam T. Hines, MPH, M.S.  
Executive Director  
The Mountaineer Partnership Inc.