



Dear America,

Happy Birthday, my girl!

I wonder what your founders thought of you when you were born. The anxious, exhausted parents. All the dreams and hopes they shaped with their quill pens and sent out into the world with cannonball blasts that ignited the great American experiment. You weren't always perfect. The people who traversed your land did not always do so with the best that humanity had to offer. There were people on you long before you formed. Their homes were closed to them when you began to take shape. There were people who came from across the sea in chains, enslaved, and it is on their backs that much of the best of our culture and economy grew. You did not know yourself in the darkest moments, when brother turned against brother in your name. You scared us from time to time.

You, my test tube of human potential, are 250 years old, but I have known you for only 40 years. To me, you are a farm in Maryland, a hot summer night in Brooklyn, and a slow Texas draw. A kindergarten career day where we were told we could be whatever we wanted to be when we grew up. You are a safe passport for a wanderlust youth. You are an opportunity. Boundless opportunity. I watched you for many years from across the sea with such pride. You always found your way back to being the best of us. Light always followed the dark.

When you were born, you gave your citizens the right to opportunity, and you declared that any child born on your soil is yours. A world where there is no forgotten man, and every man can build a legacy. Every day, I, along with hundreds of thousands of business owners, stand to build the just economy that lives up to the dream you built. Thank you for empowering people with strong voices. Thank you for allowing your people to demand the best from their leadership—to vote, to protest, and to lead in a way that lets us dream: what if it all turns out better than we expected?

Happy Birthday, America.

Camilla Taylor  
Executive Director  
American Sustainable Business Network

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**About American Sustainable Business Network**

*American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN) amplifies the collective voice of sustainable business to lead the way to a regenerative economy that is stakeholder-driven, just, and prosperous. As a multi-issue, membership organization advocating on behalf of every business sector, size, and geography, ASBN works to advance its mission to inform, connect, and mobilize sustainable business leaders, transforming the public and private sectors toward a just and regenerative economy.*

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