

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write requesting that you support economic development, job creation, and our national heritage by appropriating \$83.4 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18). Of the total request, \$47.9 million is for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), \$11.99 million is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), \$500,000 is for grants to underserved communities, and \$5 million is for the Save America's Treasures grant program. This request also includes \$13 million for the Civil Rights competitive grants initiative and \$5 million for competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Tying all of our nation's historic preservation programs together are the SHPOs and THPOs. SHPOs carry out the National Historic Preservation Act, which provides citizens the tools they need to revitalize, rehabilitate, and protect the places that give meaning to America. Funding for SHPOs leverages investments through local jobs, non-federal contributions, and long-term economic development. SHPOs administer the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit which, over the life of the program, has created 2.3 million jobs. Annually, SHPOs also review more than 100,000 federal undertakings for their impact on historic resources and survey more than 16.5 million acres for cultural resources.

THPOs carry out many of the same functions as SHPOs for tribal governments. Just as the SHPOs review federal undertakings on state lands, the THPOs review federal undertakings on tribal government lands. There are currently 171 THPOs, and that number is expected to climb to 180 by the end of FY18. In 1996, when THPOs first received funding, there were only 12 THPOs. Unfortunately, funding has not kept pace with the growing number of THPOs. In FY 2015, 158 tribes received an average of \$56,600 – more than \$20,000 less than when the program first started, not adjusted for inflation.

Additionally, we support \$13 million for competitive grants to fund the continuation of a Civil Rights initiative that preserves, documents, and interprets the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement and the African-American experience.

Funding these essential historic preservation programs is vital for making sure that the unvarnished story of America is told. It is also an investment in towns and cities throughout the country that benefit from tourists visiting historic sites and the public and private investment in restoring historic buildings. This funding is both an economic and historical imperative. It will create construction jobs and protect historic resources that might otherwise be lost forever.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jeffrey Wilson in Rep. Turner's office at x56465 (jeffrey.wilson@mail.house.gov) or Paul Balmer in Rep. Blumenauer's office at x54811 (paul.balmer@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



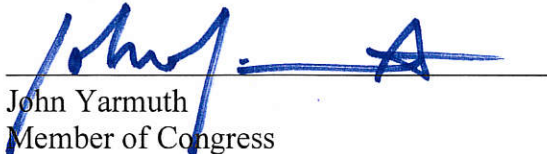
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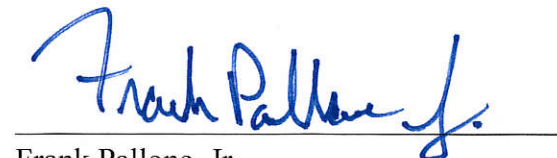
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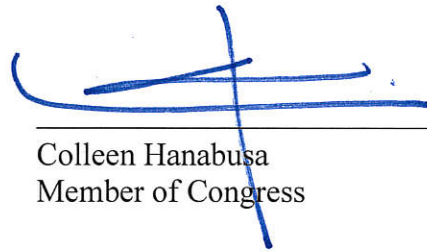
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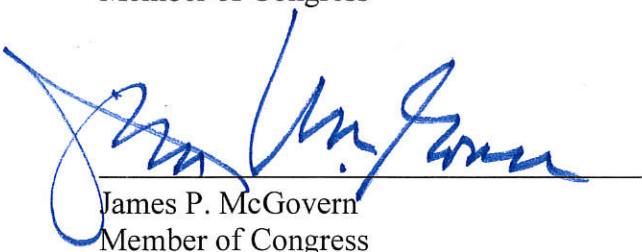
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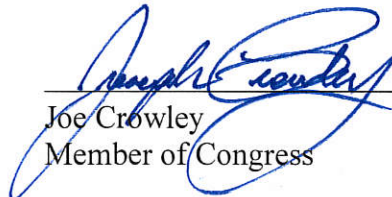
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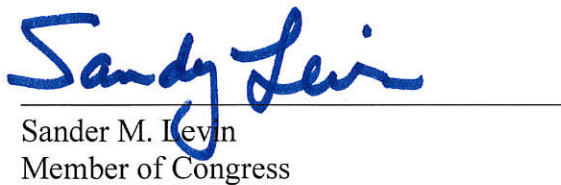
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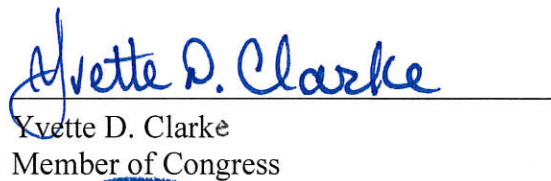
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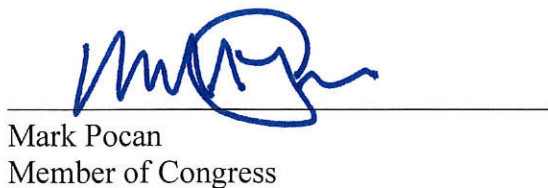
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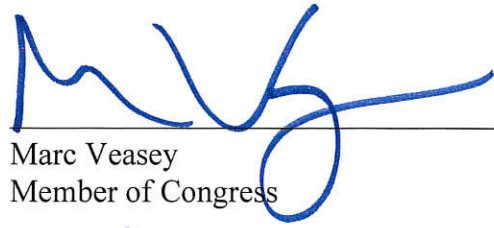
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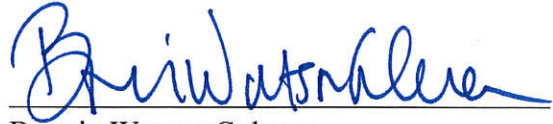
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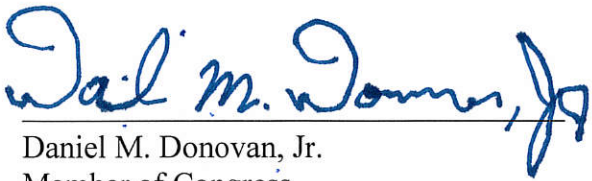
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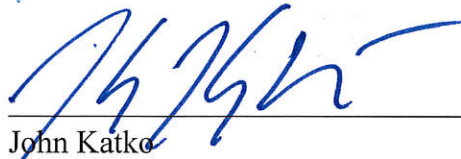
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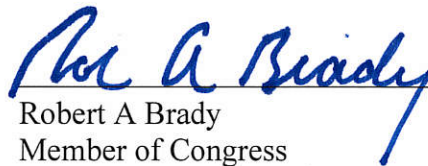
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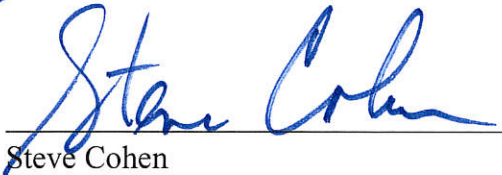
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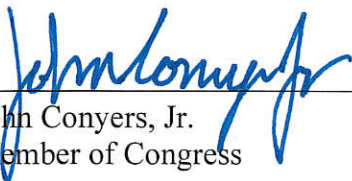
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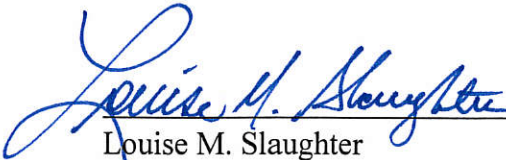
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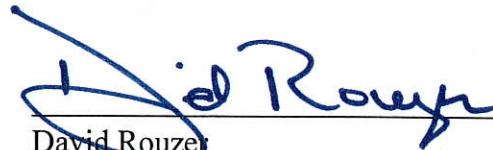
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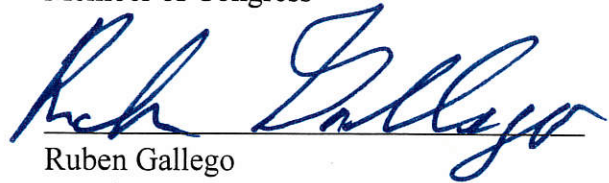
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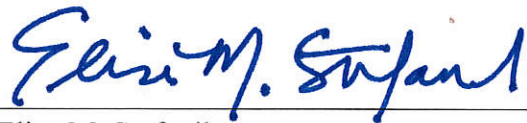
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