

June 23, 2023

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez
15190 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Carey
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Turner, Blumenauer, Leger Fernández and Carey:

On behalf of the organizations listed below, which are dedicated to the protection and preservation of our nation's historic and cultural resources, we commend you for introducing H.R.3350 and call on Congress to pass this legislation.

For nearly a half-century, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has enabled the rescue and rehabilitation of historic places, helped communities protect and celebrate the people and stories that shaped them, and created opportunities for economic growth and job creation in every state in the Union.

The HPF helps the National Park Service administer heritage programs like the National Register of Historic Places and the Historic Tax Credit. It provides transformative formula grants to state and Tribal historic preservation offices, which are tasked with numerous federal- and state-mandated preservation responsibilities. And it funds competitive grant programs, like Save America's Treasures, that serve as the linchpin of the federal government's commitment to safeguarding our Nation's heritage.

The HPF also provides vital financial support for grant programs that ensure we tell the story of all Americans. These include the Underrepresented Community Grant Program, which enables the inclusion of new sites and the amendment of existing listings in the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks. And it includes the African American Civil Rights, History of Equal Rights and HBCU Grant Programs, guaranteeing that future generations of Americans will learn about the long struggle for equality undertaken by those too often left on the margins.

Since its creation, the HPF has made possible the survey of roughly a million acres and identification of numerous cultural resources, resulting in over 98,000 listings on the National Register of Historic Places, with 1.9 million contributing resources. It has provided millions of dollars for the rehabilitation of historic buildings and leveraged more than \$199 billion in private investment through the Historic Tax Credit, generating over 3 million jobs. And it has done so without spending a dime of taxpayer money, as all its revenue comes from oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf.

As the nation's interest in preserving its heritage has grown, so have the demands on the HPF, which include the addition of new grant programs and greater responsibilities for state and Tribal preservation offices. Yet the HPF has stubbornly remained at the same authorized level -- \$150 million -- that Congress first approved in the 1970s. Without long-term, adequate funding, the HPF will be unable to support preservation efforts that help us understand, interpret, protect, and learn from our shared history.

By re-authorizing the HPF for 10 years and increasing its annual authorization to \$250 million, your bipartisan legislation not only confers long-term stability upon preservation efforts and the people they employ, but provides the opportunity for additional federal investment that will activate preservation projects, create jobs, and generate significant economic activity in communities from coast to coast.

We commend you for your leadership in introducing this legislation. But we know that time is of the essence. With the HPF set to expire at the end of September, Congress must act. As your allies in the preservation community, we pledge our commitment to helping you advance this bill through Congress and to the President's desk so that the Historic Preservation Fund can continue supporting the historic preservation work that tells the full story of our Nation.

Sincerely,

American Anthropological Association

American Cultural Resources Association

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Arizona Downtown Alliance

Arizona Preservation Foundation

Arizona Vintage Sign Coalition

Brick + Beam Detroit

Cincinnati Preservation Association

Cleveland Restoration Society

Coalition for American Heritage

Cornerstones Community Partnerships, NM

East Hillsborough Historical Society, Inc.

Greenhorns

Heritage Ohio

Historic Columbia

Knox Heritage

Landmarks Illinois

Louisiana Landmarks Society

Main Street America

McNair Historic Preservation

Missouri Preservation

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Preservation Action

Preservation Austin

Preservation Connecticut

Preservation Houston

Preservation League of New York State

Preservation Virginia

Preserve Arkansas

Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron

Society for American Archaeology

Society for Historical Archaeology

The Association for Preservation Technology

University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation