



## PROTECTING CULTURAL RESOURCES AND EDUCATING POLICY MAKERS

SAA's Government Affairs program helps educate members of Congress about National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews as an integral part of infrastructure projects. Our goal is to ensure that preservation and documentation of our cultural resources are not disregarded in the desire to expedite the overdue rebuilding of America's roads, bridges, railways, and harbors.

SAA meets with senators and representatives on both sides of the aisle, and our message highlights three important points. When crafting your own message to your elected officials in support of archaeology, consider these points:



### EFFICIENCY

Section 106 reviews required by the NHPA do not delay project deliveries, and review deadlines are almost always met. Properly documented Section 106 reviews actually enhance project efficiency by ensuring that the handling of impacted American resources is planned out ahead of time.



### HERITAGE

NHPA and NEPA reviews result in the discovery and preservation of an enormous amount of American tangible heritage, some of which was previously unknown. Archaeologists and other preservation professionals reviewed over 109,800 federal projects in 2018. They discovered an estimated 27,000 archaeological sites and historic properties.



### JOBS

The NHPA creates economic growth. Section 106 reviews are carried out by Cultural Resources Management (CRM) firms that are overwhelmingly (97%) small businesses. Together, the CRM industry generates more than \$1 billion annually, and employs over 10,000 people. CRM workers include archaeologists, accountants, HR professionals, graphic artists, IT professionals, and more. If the NHPA is weakened, those 10,000 jobs are at risk.

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to a 2018 SAA-Ipsos poll, 63% of Americans think that funding and preservation of archaeological sites should be a priority of the U.S. government.



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Both independently and with our heritage preservation partner organizations, SAA's Government Affairs program will continue this important work to ensure that our vital preservation laws are maintained now and for the future. For more information, reach out to SAA's manager, Government Affairs at [gov\\_affairs@saa.org](mailto:gov_affairs@saa.org).