

February 27, 2015

Re: Support Funding for the Historic Preservation Fund

Dear Member of Congress:

We write to encourage you to sign the attached Dear Colleague letter requesting the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee to provide \$89.91 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year FY16.

The FY16 request includes funding for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), the essential backbone of the national historic preservation program, as well as for two competitive grant programs designed to preserve the sites and stories of Civil Rights in America and the African American experience as well as increase currently underrepresented populations on the National Register and National Landmark programs.

Historic preservation is a proven driver of economic growth and job creation. Since its inception, the Historic Tax Credit, administered by SHPOs, has generated over \$109 billion in private investment and 2.4 million jobs and positively impacted local tax bases by attracting and retaining businesses and neighborhoods, reusing vacant and abandoned buildings and existing infrastructure, and preventing urban sprawl. Additionally, studies have shown that heritage tourism builds local economic wealth as a recent study found that cultural and heritage travelers spend an average of \$994 per trip and contribute more than \$192 billion annually to the United States economy.

We cannot ignore our Nation's heritage. Support for this programmatic request is vital to protecting our country's diverse cultural heritage, irreplaceable legacy, and economic well-being. We are thankful for the leadership of Representatives Michael Turner and Earl Blumenauer, and we hope you will join them in signing this bipartisan Dear Colleague letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS
CIVIL WAR TRUST
SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY
AMERICAN CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
PRESERVATION ACTION
AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS
US/INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS & SITES
NATIONAL TRUST COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION