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

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
1124 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 1, 2019

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

We write requesting that you support economic development, job creation, and our national heritage by appropriating $141 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. Of the total we request that $60 million support State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), $20 million support Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), $5 million fund a competitive grant program for State or Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to invest in geographic information systems-based mapping of historic resources, $15 million fund the Save America’s Treasures grant program, $10 million for competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and $1 million go toward a competitive grant program to survey and document historic resources. We also request that $30 million for grants to preserve the sites and stories of efforts to advance civil rights in underrepresented communities, provided that $20 million go toward preserving the sites and stories of the African American Civil Rights movement.

SHPOs and THPOs tie our nation’s historic preservation programs together. SHPOs carry out the National Historic Preservation Act, which provides citizens the tools they need to revitalize, rehabilitate, and protect American heritage. 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. SHPOs also administer the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit which, over the life of the program, has created more than 2.4 million jobs and leveraged more than $131 billion in private investment.

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 were only 12 THPOs when they first received funding in 1996. Today, there nearly 200 THPOs and funding has not kept pace with the growing number of THPOs; in 2018, 179 tribes received an average of $64,000 in funding, nearly $20,000 fewer than when the program first started.

Additionally, we support $30 million for competitive grants to fund the continuation of a Civil Rights initiative that preserves, documents, and interprets the sites and stories of the underrepresented communities, provided that $20 million be specifically set aside for the African
underrepresented communities, provided that $20 million be specifically set aside for the African American Civil Rights movement.

Funding these historic preservation programs is vital for ensuring that the unvarnished story of America is told. It is 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 that creates construction jobs and protects historic resources that might otherwise be lost forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress  

Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress  

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress  

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress  

Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress  

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress  

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress  

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress
Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Filomen Vela  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

Jessie G. García  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress

Johanna Hayes  
Member of Congress
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Buddy Carter  
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress