

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April XX, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

Thank you for your longstanding support for preserving America's special places. We write requesting that you continue this support by appropriating the fully authorized \$150 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Of the total, we request that \$60 million support State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), \$24 million support Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), \$20 million support the Save America's Treasures grant program, \$10 million support competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, \$9 million support the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grants, and \$1 million support a competitive grant program to survey and document historic resources. As part of this request, we also support \$19 million for African American Civil Rights Initiative Competitive Grants and \$7 million for the newly established competitive grants programs to preserve the sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for All Americans. Finally, we strongly support funding the semiquincentennial grant program to preserve historical sites commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America.

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. In 2019, SHPOs reviewed and consulted on 114,416 Federal undertakings and provided 86,132 National Register eligibility opinions. SHPOs also assist in administering the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit that has created more than 2.5 million local jobs and leveraged more than \$144 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 are 200 THPOs and funding has not kept pace with the growing number of THPOs, with the average THPO funding being \$5,000 lower than when the program first started.

Funding these historic preservation programs is vital for ensuring that the complete 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 jobs and protects historic resources that might otherwise be lost forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress