

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: INVEST in America Act- Proposed Amendment 171 to SEC. 1640. HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of Preservation Action, the national grassroots organization dedicated to advocating for the best historic preservation policies at the federal level, I am writing to strongly support Amendment 171, introduced by Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez to the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act (H.R. 3684). This amendment would permanently authorize the Historic Preservation Fund, which has long been strongly bipartisan, at \$300,000,000. Established in 1976 through Public Law 94-422, the Historic Preservation Fund authorization was set at \$150,000,000. Since that time, the authorization has remained at that level each year in spite of tremendous growth in the reach of the federal preservation program and the significant increase in the activities of the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) to carry out the federal mandates under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As the responsibilities of states and tribes have increased, authorized funding has not risen commensurately. In recent years, the Historic Preservation Fund has become the source of funding for other historic preservation programs, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Save America's Treasures, Underrepresented Communities Grants, Civil Rights Grants and the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants which supports projects in rural communities.

Demonstrating the growth in the need for financial support for the states, tribes and localities to carry out their federal historic preservation responsibilities, this year the President's Budget Request has asked for funding in excess of the \$150,000,000 authorization. There is an unparalleled opportunity for the 117th Congress to demonstrate confidence in the effectiveness of the Historic Preservation Fund and its long history of leveraging non-federal investment in countless communities throughout the nation.

We urge you to support the proposed amendment to the Historic Preservation Fund. We would be pleased to answer questions or offer further information.

Sincerely,



Russ Carnahan
President, Preservation Action