

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2022

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 to request that you continue this support by appropriating \$200 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Of the total, we request that \$65 million support State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), \$34 million support Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), \$35 million support the Save America's Treasures grant program, \$12 million support competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, \$12 million support the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grants, and \$3 million support a competitive grant program to survey and document historic resources. As part of this request, we also support \$24 million for African American Civil Rights Initiative Competitive Grants and \$5 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 \$10 million for the semiquincentennial grant program to preserve historical sites commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

SHPOs and THPOs lead efforts to promote our nation's historic and cultural heritage. SHPOs carry out the National Historic Preservation Act, which provides citizens the tools they need to revitalize, rehabilitate, and protect the resources our communities value most. In FY 2021 SHPOs reviewed and consulted on 124,300 Federal undertakings, provided 89,600 National Register eligibility opinions and surveyed 8.5 million acres for cultural resources. SHPOs also assist in administering the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program that has created more than 2.9 million new jobs and leveraged more than \$181 billion in private investment since the program's inception.

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 more than 200 THPOs, and the average THPO receives several thousand dollars less than when the program first started. Congress and the United States have a responsibility to sustain these services as part of our government-to-government relationship with the tribes, and while funding for THPOs as a category has grown in past years, we must ensure those increases

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are felt at the level of individual Tribal Historic Preservation Offices as well.

Funding these historic preservation programs is vital for ensuring that the complete story of America is told. Infrastructure investments funded by the bipartisan infrastructure law are also expected to greatly add to the workload of SHPOs and THPOs, so we must ensure these offices are appropriately equipped. Historic preservation 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,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



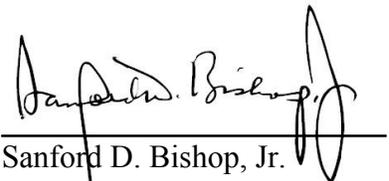
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



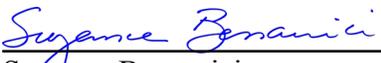
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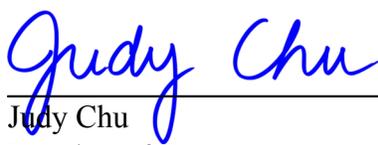
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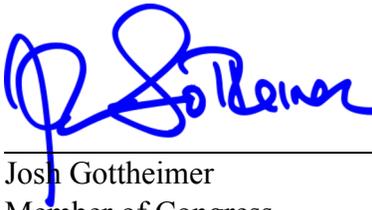
Sylvia R. Garcia
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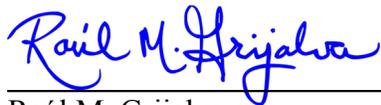
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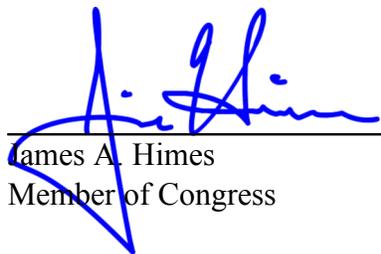
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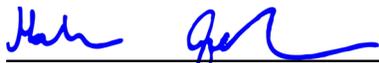


Steven Horsford
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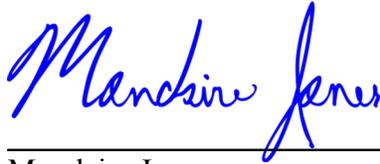


Sheila Jackson Lee
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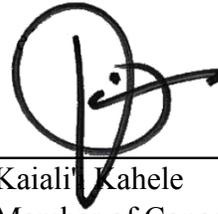
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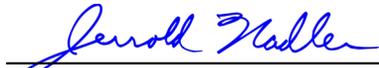
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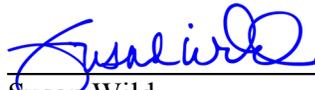
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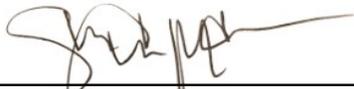


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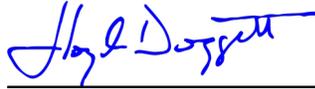


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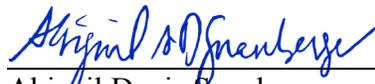
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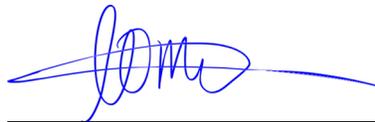
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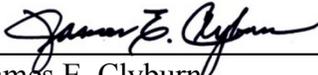
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Majority Whip



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