Dear Chair Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree:

Thank you for your longstanding support for preserving America’s special places. We write to request that you continue this support by appropriating $225 million for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Of the total, we request that $70 million support State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), $34 million support Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), $40 million support the Save America’s Treasures grant program, $13 million support competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, $17 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 $28 million for African American Civil Rights Initiative Competitive Grants, $7 million for the History of Equal Rights grant program to preserve the sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for All Americans, and $5 million for a competitive grant program to survey and document historic resources in underrepresented communities. Finally, we strongly support $11 million for the Semiquincentennial grant program to preserve historical sites commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

SHPOs 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 3 million new jobs and leveraged more than $199 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 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

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Garret Graves
Member of Congress
Adam Smith  
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Mike Thompson  
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
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Debbie Dingell  
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Sean Casten  
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Michael V. Lawler  
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Elissa Slotkin  
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Mike Carey  
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Hillary J. Scholten  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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Darren Soto  
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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress