REAUTHORIZE THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND! 2023
AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

BACKGROUND
The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal way that the federal government helps states and Tribes fulfill their federally-mandated obligations to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites of importance in the U.S.

The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) to support preservation activities in each state, including fulfilling federally mandated preservation reviews. Congress established the HPF in 1976 to provide financial assistance to SHPOs to carry out these duties. Later, the HPF expanded to also fund Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) and several diverse competitive grant programs in support of preservation efforts.

Since its inception, the HPF has facilitated more than 98,000 listings on the National Register, enabled the survey of millions of acres for cultural resources, and leveraged over $199 billion in private investment through the Historic Tax Credit.

HPF AUTHORIZATION HISTORY
Since its inception, the HPF has been reauthorized six times, sometimes as a stand-alone bill and other times as part of a larger legislative package. Originally authorized at $150 million per year, the HPF authorization has not been increased in more than forty years!

HPF APPROPRIATION HISTORY
HPF is subject to the annual Congressional Appropriations process, where Congress sets specific program spending levels for the upcoming fiscal year. Over the last 20 years, Congress significantly expanded the HPF to fund grant programs that support job-creating, brick-and-mortar preservation projects across the country.

HPF FUNDING SOURCE
HPF funds do not come from taxpayer dollars. HPF funds are generated through offshore oil and gas leasing and production revenues – and are envisioned as a way for non-renewable energy resources to support the preservation of another non-renewable resource, our nation’s historic and cultural assets.

WHAT DOES THE HPF FUND?

SHPOs
SHPOs handle, among other things:
- Locating and documenting America’s historic places
- Making nominations to the National Register
- Reviewing impacts of federal projects (Section 106)
- Administering and facilitating Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) projects

THPOs
THPOs are responsible for the same activities as SHPOs, but on Tribal lands (with the exception of HTC projects). The number of THPOs continues to grow as more federally-recognized tribes designate a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. In FY23, 212 THPOs received an average award of only $103,000.

GRANTS
Competitive Grant Programs, including:
- Save America’s Treasures
- Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants
- African American Civil Rights Grants
- Historically Black Colleges/Universities Grants
- Semiquincentennial Celebration Grants
- History of Equal Rights Grants
- Underrepresented Community Grants

HISTORIC TAX CREDIT PROJECTS
The Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) is a 20% credit for rehabilitation expenditures of certified historic structures. Since inception, the HTC has:
- Rehabilitated over 47,000 historic buildings
- Created nearly 3 million jobs
- Attracted approximately $199 billion in private investment
- Produced over 185,000 low- and moderate-income affordable housing units
- Generated $42.9 billion in federal tax revenue from the $32.6 billion in federal tax credits

Did you know?
LAST YEAR, SHPO OFFICES PROCESSED A MEDIAN OF 2,100 SECTION 106 CONSULTATIONS (FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW), A MEDIAN OF 534 NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS, AND AN AVERAGE OF 82 FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT REVIEWS
IN 1976, CONGRESS AUTHORIZED THE HPF AT $150M. ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, THAT AMOUNT EQUALS THE PURCHASING POWER OF $759,287,505 IN 2023 DOLLARS.

FLAT DEPOSITS TO HPF OVER PAST 43 YEARS = DRASTIC DECREASE IN VALUE.