

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman 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) 2025. 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, and \$17 million support the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grants to revitalize historic properties and generate economic development in rural communities. 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 2022 SHPOs reviewed and consulted on 177,400 Federal undertakings (a 42.7% increase over FY21), provided 83,200 National Register eligibility opinions and surveyed over 5.3 million acres for cultural resources. SHPOs also assist in administering the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program that has created more than 3.2 million new jobs and leveraged over \$235 billion in private investment since the program's inception.

Just as the SHPOs review federal undertakings on state lands, 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 for which Congress and the United States have a responsibility to sustain

the government-to-government relationship with the Tribes. While funding for THPOs as a category has grown in recent years, we must ensure those increases are felt at the level of individual Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

HPF's competitive grant programs preserve, document, and exhibit diverse histories. These programs address a wide variety of preservation needs across the country and fund various types of work. In 2022, the Idaho Heritage Trust was awarded a \$750,000 Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grant to implement a subgrant program to facilitate the preservation and restoration of historic theaters in Idaho's rural communities. Nine theaters across the state received between \$49,000-\$100,000 to repair and preserve their historic venues. In 2022, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry received a Semiquincentennial grant for the rehabilitation of the Colburn House in Pittston, ME, where Major Colburn worked with local Indigenous leaders and colonists to map a water trail route and quickly construct small boats for Benedict Arnold's campaign to seize Quebec in 1775 during the American Revolution.

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 have added significantly to the workload of SHPOs and THPOs, so we must ensure these offices are appropriately equipped. The program authorization of the Historic Preservation Fund expired in 2023, but was given a one-year extension in the FY 2024 appropriations bill. It is imperative that the program is fully reauthorized to address the ongoing funding needs and to provide stability to preservation programs. 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,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



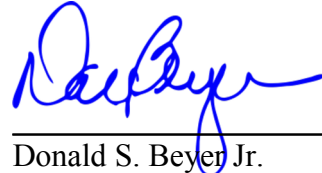
Mike Carey
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Teresa Leger Fernández
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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André Carson
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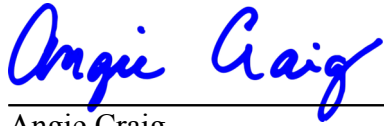
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Sharice L. Davids
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Danny K. Davis
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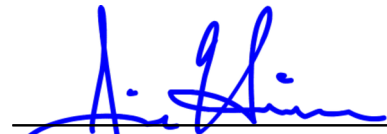
Jenniffer González-Colón
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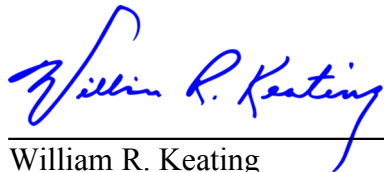
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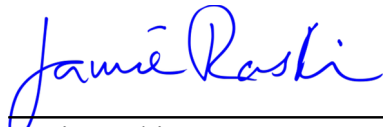
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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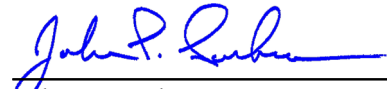
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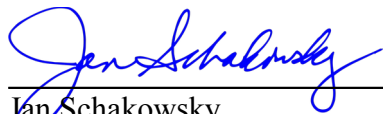
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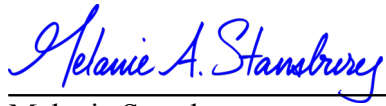
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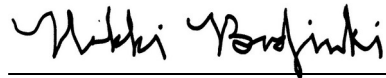
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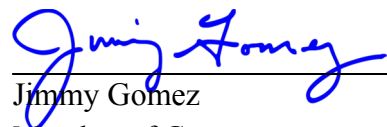
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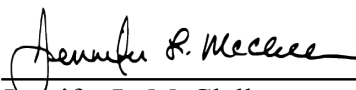
Rick Larsen
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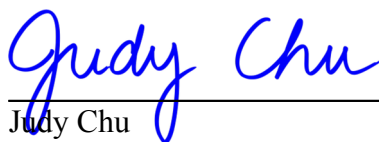
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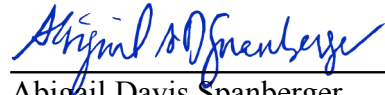
Judy Chu
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Jared Moskowitz
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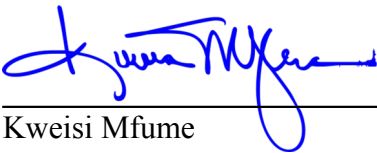
Bill Foster
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Jahana Hayes
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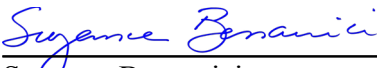
Dina Titus
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Kweisi Mfume
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Mike Thompson
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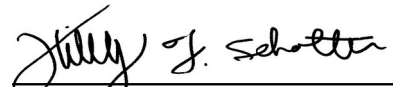
Suzanne Bonamici
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Katie Porter
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Madeleine Dean
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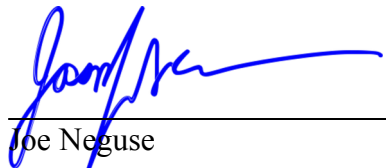
Hillary J. Scholten
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Julia Brownley
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Elissa Slotkin
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Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



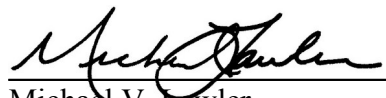
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Darren Soto
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Chrissy Houlahan
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