

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Room, H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2025

Dear Chairs Collins, Murkowski, Cole and Simpson, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Members Merkley, DeLauro and Pingree:

The undersigned organizations urge you to fund the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) at the highest possible amount for critical historic preservation activities in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 2026), and to extend the HPF's authorization for a minimum of one year as you conference the FY 2026 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

As our Nation prepares to honor its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, the imperative to protect, preserve, and recognize the historic sites that tell America's story has never been more important.

The HPF is how the federal government supports the critical work that happens in every state, community, and Tribal nation to preserve that history for future generations. Using revenue from offshore oil and gas leasing, not tax-payer dollars, the HPF supports federally mandated activities undertaken by State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and Certified Local Governments (CLGs) to preserve our heritage. Its competitive grant programs reach into nearly every community in the country to facilitate the restoration and preservation of important cultural and historic sites. In doing so, the HPF not only enhances our understanding of our collective history; it creates jobs, fosters tourism, enables economic development, and revitalizes local economies.

Competitive grant programs under the HPF preserve, document, and exhibit our shared history. This includes support for programs like the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grant program, which fosters economic development in rural communities through the revitalization of historic properties, and the Semiquincentennial grant program, which celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America by restoring and preserving historic sites and structures that commemorate the founding of the nation.

Our FY 2026 request of \$225 million for the HPF serves to underscore the true necessity of funding and reflects the needs of the field. We applaud the House and Senate Appropriations Committee for largely maintaining funding for the HPF and urge you to support prompt, robust funding for the HPF at the highest possible level in the final FY 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This is essential to ensuring uninterrupted and efficient federal project review by states and Tribes and to protect billions in investment across the country.

We also appreciate the House and Senate Appropriations Committee's support for an extension of the authorization of deposits to the HPF through 2026 and urge inclusion in any final bill. It is imperative to restore this authorization to address the ongoing funding needs and to provide stability to these preservation programs.

There also exists a need for an expeditious bipartisan effort to extend the HPF program authorization for an increased deposit amount.

This funding, representing a tiny fraction of overall federal spending – and provided without a cent of taxpayer money – has a profound multiplier effect, creating economic vitality in our communities and building the connections to our shared history.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

American Cultural Resources Association  
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Preservation Action  
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers  
Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology  
American Institute of Architects  
Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation  
Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis  
National Preservation Partners Network  
Society for American Archaeology  
Society for Historical Archaeology  
Society for Industrial Archeology