

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We write requesting that you support economic development, job creation, and our national heritage by appropriating \$95.485 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year 2017. Of the total request, \$55 million is for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), \$11.985 million is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and \$500,000 is for grants to underserved communities. In addition, this request includes \$25 million for the Civil Rights competitive grants initiative and \$3 million for competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Tying all of our Nation's historic preservation programs together are the SHPOs and THPOs. SHPOs carry out the National Historic Preservation Act which provides citizens the tools they need to revitalize, rehabilitate, and protect the places that give meaning to America. Funding for SHPOs leverages investments through local jobs, non-federal contributions, and long-term economic development. SHPOs administer the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, which over the life of the program, has created more than 2 million jobs. Annually, SHPOs also review more than 100,000 federal undertakings for their impact on historic resources and survey more than 16.5 million acres for cultural resources.

THPOs carry-out many of the same functions as SHPOs in tribal areas. There are now 157 THPOs, compared to only 12 in fiscal year 1996 when the program was first funded. Unfortunately the amount of HPF funds appropriated is not keeping pace with this expansion. The addition of new THPOs each year keeps the average level of support per THPO at around \$60,000, which is barely enough to operate a program.

Additionally, we support the \$25 million for competitive grants to fund a Civil Rights initiative that will be used for preserving, documenting, and interpreting the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement and the African American Experience.

Funding these core and essential historic preservation programs represents a true investment in America's treasured legacy multiplied many times over through public-private economic partnerships and ventures. Most importantly, it would create much-needed jobs and ensure the protection of historic resources nationwide that might otherwise be lost forever.

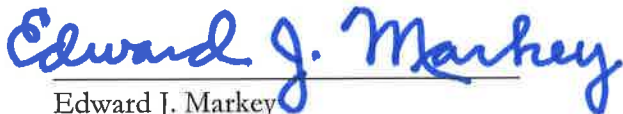
Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



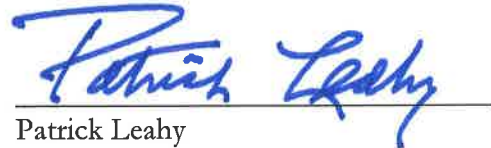
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



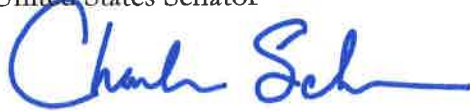
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



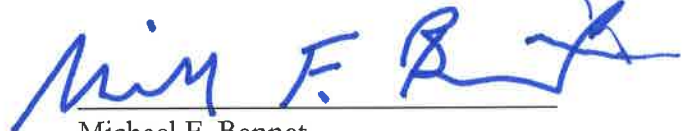
Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



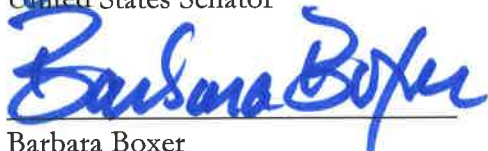
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



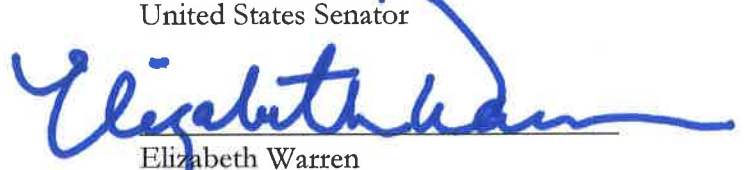
Jack Reed  
United States Senator



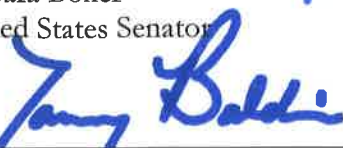
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator