



VIA EMAIL

July 14, 2016

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We write to urge the conferees to include in the compromise bill permanent reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which passed the Senate as Section 5003 of S. 2012.

The HPF is a vital tool to implement the nation's historic preservation program. The HPF derives its funding not from taxpayer dollars, but from Outer Continental Shelf lease revenues. Through these allocations, the HPF has facilitated over 80,000 listings on the National Register and surveyed millions of acres for cultural resources. HPF dollars have facilitated \$117 billion in private investment through administration of the Historic Tax Credit, rehabilitating 41,000 historic buildings and creating 2.4 million jobs.

State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs and THPOs), the two primary programs funded by the HPF, are the backbone of our nation's historic preservation program. SHPOs and THPOs are responsible for identifying and documenting America's historic places and National Register nominations; contributing technical expertise to thirty-day reviews of federal projects for their impact on historic resources; providing guidance and approval for Historic Tax Credit projects; providing preservation information, training, and technical assistance to communities and local, state, and Federal governments; preparing and implementing state preservation plans; and creating and working with Certified Local Governments. SHPOs provide a 40% match to the federal funding and are required to distribute at least 10% of a SHPO's HPF allocation to Certified Local Governments. When SHPO and THPO offices are adequately funded and supported, historic preservation reviews are more efficient, thus allowing for the timely approval of federal infrastructure development projects.

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The HPF has also funded a number of competitive grants programs, including a program to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement, grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, a program to survey and nominate properties associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks, and the Save America's Treasures program.

There is strong bipartisan support for HPF reauthorization, evidenced by the 24 Republicans and 38 Democrats co-sponsoring the House bill that would reauthorize the HPF for 7 years (H.R. 2817). This bill passed unanimously out of committee on July 13. We are hopeful that this spirit of cooperation can carry over to the Energy conference discussions.

The undersigned organizations ask that as the conferees begin the difficult task of reconciling the Senate and House energy bills, you include Section 5003 of the Senate bill in the final package. HPF reauthorization will support efficient review of proposed infrastructure projects, safeguard historic resources, and yield economic benefits in localities across the country.

We are pleased to make ourselves available to answer questions or provide information. Thank you.

Kind regards,

American Cultural Resources Association
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation Action
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Historical Archaeology

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