

# NCSHPO

## National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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### State of Vermont

### Division for Historic Preservation

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January 4, 2023

Senator Patrick Leahy  
87 State Street, Room 338  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
*Via mail and staff via email*

Dear Senator Leahy,

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the Vermont State Historic Preservation Office would like to convey our deepest gratitude for your long-tenured and dedicated public service in the U.S. Congress. During your eight terms in the U.S. Senate, you have shown remarkable leadership in supporting community preservation efforts and prioritizing the preservation of America's history. Together with your dedicated staff, you have proven to be powerful advocates for the Vermont constituency and the national historic preservation effort.

For fiscal year 2023, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is looking at a record-breaking funding level of \$204.5 million, as outlined in the recent omnibus spending bill. There is no doubt you played a significant role in this effort as the Chair of the Appropriations committee. Because of this, State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices will receive much-needed funds to continue the great work they do to promote our nation's historic, tribal, and cultural assets. Further, important preservation projects will continue to be funded through competitive grant programs and congressionally directed spending efforts funded under the HPF.

Your efforts to memorialize a colleague through the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program have ensured that rural areas will receive funding for preservation efforts that are critical to preserving and enhancing the identity of local communities. On the home front, your efforts to establish the Village Revitalization Initiative Program in 2005 demonstrated the successful leveraging of HUD funding to preserve historic main streets. Over the course of the program, \$2,435,200 was invested in 27 community projects, playing a critical role in over \$27 million worth of total project costs. All projects resulted in enhanced community uses and increased vitality of historic buildings located in the heart of the village center and in a small downtown.

Nationally, your dedication to communities and preservation resulted in the recent creation of the Semiquincentennial Grant Program by the National Park Service to support state-owned sites and buildings that commemorate the founding of our nation. Seventeen cultural resource preservation

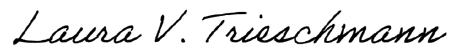
projects in 12 states were awarded \$7 million in the inaugural round of funding, ensuring stewardship of the many places and stories that contributed to the evolution of the American experience. This funding is critical to the 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration of our nation's founding.

All the projects your support has touched shall stand as part of your legacy. We hope to build upon that legacy in promoting the inherent value of our nation's past. We remain steadfast in our effort to support a continued upward trajectory of funding for the HPF, as well as a reauthorization of the program in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. We cannot thank you enough for your leadership, and forever remain appreciative and indebted to you for your efforts in supporting preservation for the benefit of local communities. We extend you our most sincere wishes for all the best in your retirement.

Sincerely,



Ramona M. Bartos  
President, NCSHPO



Laura V. Trieschmann  
Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer