

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
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 Chair 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) 2024. 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, \$17 million support the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grants, and \$3 million support a competitive grant program to survey and document historic resources. 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 2021 SHPOs reviewed and consulted on 124,300 Federal undertakings, provided 89,600 National Register eligibility opinions and surveyed 8.5 million acres for cultural resources. SHPOs also assist in administering the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program that has created more than 3 million new jobs and leveraged more than \$199 billion in private investment since the program's inception.

THPOs carry out many of the same functions as SHPOs for tribal governments. Just as the SHPOs review federal undertakings on state lands, the 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, and the average THPO receives several thousand dollars less than when the program first started. Congress and the United States have a responsibility to sustain these services as part of our government-to-government relationship with the tribes, and while funding for THPOs as a category has grown in past years, we must ensure those increases are felt at the level of individual Tribal Historic Preservation Offices as well.

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 are also expected to greatly add to the workload of SHPOs and THPOs, so we must ensure these offices are appropriately equipped. 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,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



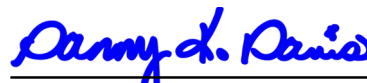
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
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Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



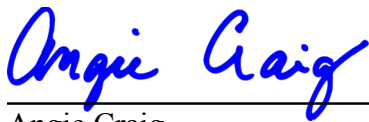
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress



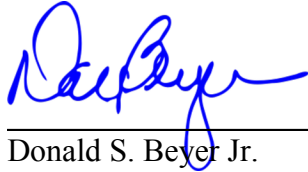
Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Steve Cohen
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Gwen S. Moore
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Brian Fitzpatrick
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Teresa Leger Fernández
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David N. Cicilline
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



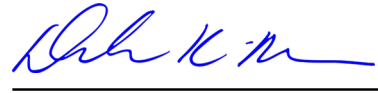
Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



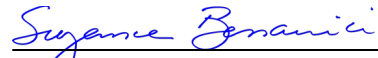
Chrissy Houlahan
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



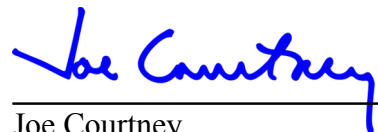
Shontel M. Brown
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Seth Moulton
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Rick Larsen
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Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



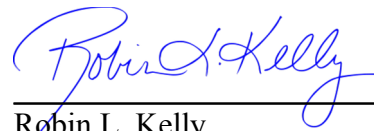
John P. Sarbanes
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Sharice L. Davids
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress
, Committee on Ways and
Means



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



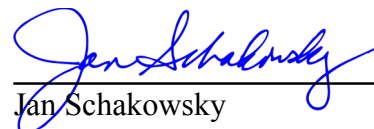
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

André Carson

André Carson
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
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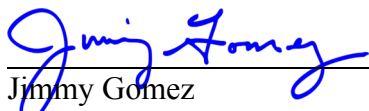
Jan Schakowsky
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Lloyd Doggett
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Jimmy Gomez
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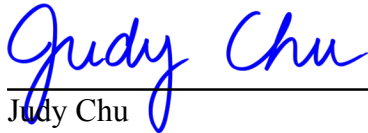
Andy Kim
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Darin LaHood
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Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
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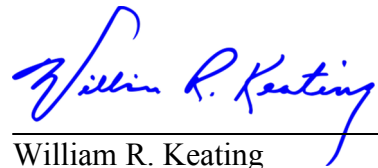
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



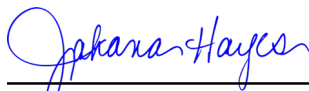
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



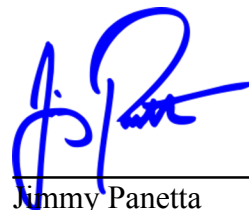
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



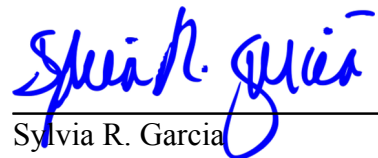
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
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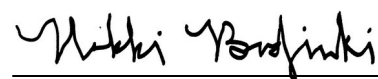
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
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Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski



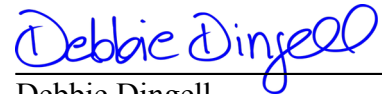
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



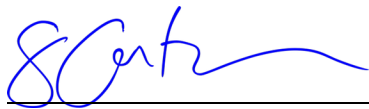
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



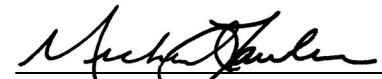
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



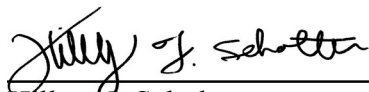
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



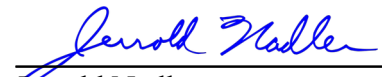
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
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Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



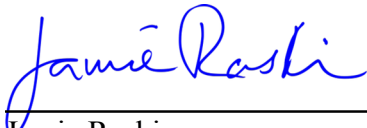
Terrold Nadler
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Darren Soto
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Susan Wild
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Jamie Raskin
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Madeleine Dean
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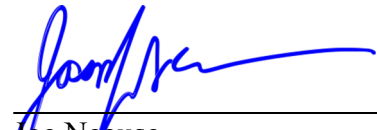
Troy Carter
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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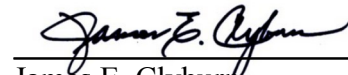
Diana DeGette
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Joe Neguse
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Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress




Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



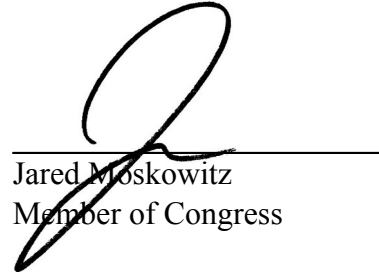
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



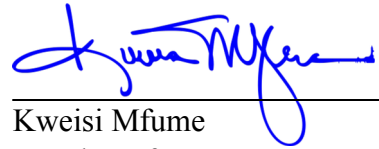
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
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Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress