



April 25, 2023

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for supporting the Biden Administration’s FY2024 budget request of \$3 million for the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program at the National Park Service. By leading six Senators on a support letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee, you are making a meaningful contribution to preserving African American history in your state and throughout the nation.

Unfortunately, many African-American burial grounds from both before and after the Civil War are in a state of disarray or inaccessibility. Beginning with slavery and continuing through the Jim Crow era, African Americans were restricted in where they could bury their dead. Local laws segregated burial grounds by race. These sites were often confined to remote areas or marginal property, and they frequently were not provided the same sort of state or local support or assistance as predominantly white cemeteries. As a result, many jurisdictions are unaware of the existence of these historic sites; even when their location is known, the task of restoring, preserving, and maintaining these burial grounds can be expensive, difficult, and require technical expertise.

Funding the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program at the National Park Service will assist communities across our country in identifying, preserving, and restoring these historic and cultural sites. We are grateful for your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you on this and other issues of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

American Anthropological Association  
American Battlefield Trust  
American Institute of Architects  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Coalition for American Heritage  
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

National Conference of State Historic  
Preservation Officers  
National Religious Partnership for the  
Environment  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Preservation Action  
Society for Historical Archaeology