The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write requesting that you support economic development, job creation, and our national heritage by appropriating $89.91 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year 2016, as recommended in the President’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget proposal. Of the total request, $46,925 million is for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), $9,985 million is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), and $500,000 is for grants to underserved communities. In addition, this request includes $30 million for the Civil Rights competitive grants initiative and $2.5 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. In 2014, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, administered by SHPOs, leveraged over $4.32 billion in private investment and, over the life of the program, has created 2.4 million jobs. In 2014, SHPOs also reviewed over 103,000 federal undertakings for their impact on historic resources and surveyed over 16.5 million acres for cultural resources.

THPOs carry out many of the same functions as SHPOs in tribal areas. There are now 154 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 surpressed at around $60,000, barely enough to operate a program. With the anticipated increase in the number of THPOs in 2015, the additional $1 million will result in keeping THPOs at their current funding levels.

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.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Vince Erfe in Rep. Turner’s office at x56465 (vince.erfe@mail.house.gov) or Paul Balmer in Rep. Blumenauer’s office at x54811 (paul.balmer@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Michael R. Turner  
Earl Blumenauer
List of Signing Members
*not in order of signatures*

1. Michael R. Turner (OH-10)
2. Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)
3. John A. Yarmouth (KY-03)
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6. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03)
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23. Grace Meng (NY-06)
24. Eliot L. Engel (NY-16)
25. Mark Takano (CA-41)
27. John Lewis (GA-05)
28. Joyce Beatty (OH-03)
29. Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40)
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31. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09)
32. Dina Titus (NV-01)
33. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)
34. Ann McLane Kuster (NH-02)
35. Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-03)
36. Mark Takai (HI-01)
37. Louise M. Slaughter (NY-25)
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43. John Garamendi (CA-03)
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49. Filemon Vela (TX-34)
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59. Lloyd Doggett (TX-35)
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61. David B. McKinley, P.E. (WV-01)
62. Suzan K. DelBene (WA-01)
63. Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05)
64. Joseph Crowley (NY-14)
65. Matt Cartwright (PA-17)
66. Debbie Dingell (MI-12)
67. Jared Polis (CO-02)
68. Ed Perlmutter (CO-07)
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71. Elijah E. Cummings (MD-07)
72. Stephen F. Lynch (MA-08)
73. Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11)
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75. Jared Huffman (CA-02)
76. Michael E. Capuano (MA-07)
77. Tammy Duckworth (IL-08)
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79. Donna F. Edwards (MD-04)
80. Joe Courtney (CT-02)
81. Barbara Lee (CA-13)
82. Michael G. Fitzpatrick (PA-08)
83. Loretta Sanchez (CA-46)
84. Collin C. Peterson (MN-07)
85. Joaquin Castro (TX-20)
86. Christopher P. Gibson (NY-19)
87. Daniel T. Kildee (MI-05)
88. Nydia Velázquez (NY-07)
89. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)
90. Cheri Bustos (IL-17)
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92. James A. Himes (CT-04)
93. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA-03)
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96. Judy Chu (CA-27)
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100. Stacey E. Plaskett (VI)
101. Donald S. Beyer, Jr. (VA-08)
102. G. K. Butterfield (NC-01)