

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

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 suppressed 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,


MICHAEL R. TURNER


EARL BLUMENAUER

John ~~Star~~

Diana Tetra

Jol Lewis

A. Hanna

Suzette Burr

Kelli R. Keating

M. Burr

H. L. De

Mr. Dyl

Daniel T. Kieck

Dan Scott

Michelle Lujan Grisham

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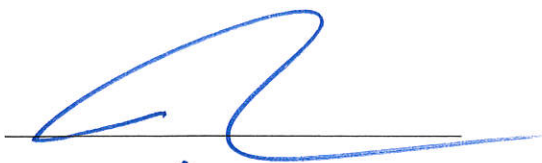
Matthew A. Caffrey

Andr pol

Ron Kind

Rail M. Hijab

John Hill


~~CRA~~

Michael M. Stone

Pin Van Kahr

Jewell Kallu

Eleanor H. Norton

Niki Smyth

Danny & Davis

David McAllister

Zwen Moore

Shuald E. Connolly

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Alma Adams

Harvey

Stacy E. Plattett

[Signature]

Eric M. Stepanik

Hank Johnson

Ge. Butterfield

List of Signing Members

not in order of signatures

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- 17) Keith Ellison (MN-05)
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- 45) John P. Sarbanes (MD-03)
- 46) Jackie Speier (CA-14)
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- 48) Paul Tonko (NY-20)
- 49) Filemon Vela (TX-34)
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- 66) Debbie Dingell (MI-12)
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- 68) Ed Perlmutter (CO-07)
- 69) Diana DeGette (CO-01)
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- 89) Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30)
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- 92) James A. Himes (CT-04)
- 93) Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-03)
- 94) Elise M. Stefanik (NY-21)
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