

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski:

We write asking that you support economic development, job creation and our national heritage by appropriating \$56.41 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. This amount is equal to FY 2014 levels and matches the President's FY 2015 request. Of the total request, \$46.925 million is for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and \$8.985 million is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). In addition, we are asking for \$500,000 for a competitive grant program to help survey and identify historic resources important to underrepresented populations.

The SHPOs and THPOs play a critical role in tying all of our Nation's historic preservation programs together. 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 communities around the country. For example, in 2013, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, administered by SHPOs, leveraged over \$3.39 billion in private investment and created nearly 63,000 jobs. In 2013, SHPOs also reviewed over 124,100 federal undertakings for their impact on historic resources and surveyed over 19 million acres for cultural resources. Providing level funding for SHPOs will allow them to maintain their current activities and keep much needed economic and job creation projects on track.

THPOs carry-out many of the same functions as SHPOs in tribal areas. There are now 148 THPOs, compared to only 12 in FY1996 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.

Funding these core and essential historic preservation programs represents a true investment in America's treasured legacy multiplied many times over through public-private partnerships that benefit economic development in areas across the country. Most importantly, this important federal investment would create much needed jobs and ensure the protection of historic resources nationwide that might otherwise be lost forever.

Sincerely,

  
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Kirsten Gillibrand

  
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Ben Cardin

John Dume

Mr. F. B. A

Shirley Brown

Tr / L

Brian Schoof

Tom Harkin

Bob Sanders

B. M.

Dick Durbin

Jay Byrnes

Patrick Leahy

Jerry Bolding

May of Garrison

Richard Blumenthal

Loel Line

Demetrius "Tim" Tim

Paul Hancock

August King -

Jim Johnson

John King

Ken Wippen

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