March 16, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
2256 Rayburn 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 $88.5 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY2019). Of the total request, $52 million is for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), including $2 million for a competitive grant program to survey and document historic resources, $13.5 million is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), $500,000 is for grants to underserved communities, and $4.5 million is for the Save America’s Treasures grant program. This request also includes $13 million for the Civil Rights competitive grants initiative and $5 million for competitive grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

SHPOs and THPOs tie 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 American heritage. Annually, SHPOs also review more than 100,000 federal undertakings for their impact on historic resources and survey more than 16.5 million acres for cultural resources. SHPOs also administer the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit which, over the life of the program, has created more than 2.4 million jobs and leveraged more than $131 billion in private investment.

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 nearly 190 THPOs and funding has not kept pace with the growing number of THPOs; in FY2017, 180 tribes received an average of $58,000 in funding, more than $20,000 fewer than when the program first started.

Additionally, we support $13 million for competitive grants to fund the continuation of a Civil Rights initiative that preserves, documents, and interprets the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement and the African-American experience.

Funding these historic preservation programs is vital for ensuring that the unvarnished story of America is told. It 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 construction jobs and protects historic resources that might otherwise be lost forever.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jeffrey Wilson in Rep. Turner’s office at x56465 (Jeffrey.Wilson@mail.house.gov) or Jon Bosworth in Rep. Blumenauer’s office at x54811 (Jon.Bosworth@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress
FY 2019 Historic Preservation Funding Letter

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress
Denny Heck
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress
FY 2019 Historic Preservation Funding Letter

Kristen Sinema
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress
FY 2019 Historic Preservation Funding Letter

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

John J. Faso
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress