

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2011

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

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

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

We write asking that you support economic development, job creation and our national heritage by appropriating \$70 million in funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for fiscal year 2012. We know that in this fiscal environment, belts must be tightened and sacrifices made, therefore our FY12 request is a 10 percent reduction from the FY08 enacted amounts for the preservation programs. Of the total request, \$50 million is for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), \$11 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), and the remaining \$9 million should go for much needed grant programs like Save America's Treasures (SAT) and Preserve America (PA) with fully competitive, non-earmarked awards.

Tying all our nation's historic preservation activities together are the SHPOs. SHPOs carry out the National Historic Preservation Act which provides citizens the tools needed 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 2010, the Rehabilitation Tax Credit, administered by SHPOs, leveraged nearly \$3.5 billion in private investment and created over 40,000 jobs. In 2010 SHPOs also reviewed over 240,000 federal undertakings for their impact on historic resources, more than double the 2009 amount. Providing \$50 million for SHPOs would maintain current activities and keep much needed economic development and job creation projects on track.

THPOs carry out many of the same functions as SHPOs in tribal areas. There are now 110 THPOs, compared to only 12 in FY96 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. Therefore we ask that THPOs be funded at the President's request of \$11 million for FY12.

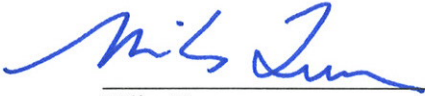
SAT, the nation's only bricks-and-mortar preservation grant program has experienced broad, bipartisan Congressional support. The program has provided nearly \$300 million to save 1,287 of America's most significant places in all 50 states, creating over 16,000 jobs and fostering economic development in every single project it covers. It has leveraged nearly \$400 million in non-federal and private funds. As a result, SAT has been enormously successful in attracting private-sector financing and creating productive and sustained partnerships with corporations, foundations, and individuals that provide matching contributions.

The Preserve America program complements SAT's bricks-and-mortar grant projects by helping local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets. A 2009 report to Congress by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation found that Preserve America is addressing many state, local, and regional heritage tourism needs with a relatively small federal investment and like SAT, the competitive grants require a dollar-for-dollar, non-federal match.

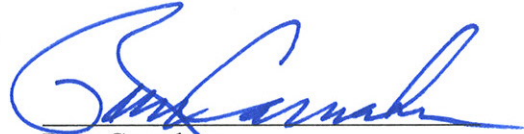
Funding these essential historic preservation programs represents a true investment in America's treasured legacy multiplied many times over through public-private economic partnerships and ventures. Most importantly, it would create much needed jobs and ensure the protection of historic resources nationwide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

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact either Al Garesché at al_garesche@mail.house.gov or Ken Reidy at ken.reidy@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Mike Turner
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress