

Representative Tom Cole

Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mike Simpson

Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies Subcommittee
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Chellie Pingree

Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear House Appropriators,

We, the undersigned organizations dedicated to the perpetuation of great American places, write to urge your strong support for federal programs and staff essential to the protection and preservation of the United States' rich cultural and historic heritage. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and the federal preservation professionals who steward it are vital to ensuring that our shared national story—including the diverse histories of Indigenous communities, communities of color, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, women, territories, rural and urban areas alike—is preserved for future generations.

For nearly five decades, the Historic Preservation Fund has served as the cornerstone of our national preservation framework. It provides critical funding to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, local governments, and nonprofits engaged in rigorously documenting, protecting, and revitalizing historic places across the country. This critical investment drives economic development, supports good-paying jobs, promotes sustainability, and strengthens community identity and security.

Equally vital are agency budget allocations for the federal staff who administer preservation programs at the National Park Service and other agencies. These professionals offer technical assistance, review projects for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, and help communities navigate complex preservation processes. Their expertise ensures that federal preservation goals are met efficiently and transparently.

Yet, Historic Preservation Fund programs and cultural preservation personnel are persistently underfunded and overstretched. In recent years, the Historic Preservation Fund received a fraction of what is needed to meet the growing demand for preservation work across the nation. Moreover, the federal workforce dedicated to preserving our national heritage continues to shrink due to program defunding, reduction in force orders, and hiring constraints, jeopardizing the integrity and effectiveness of preservation efforts.

We call on Congress to:

- **Fully fund the Historic Preservation Fund.**
- **Ensure robust funding for staffing and support of federal preservation offices,** including at the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Advisory Council

on Historic Preservation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other key agencies.

- **Safeguard the integrity of the National Historic Preservation Act** and other bedrock preservation laws, ensuring they are upheld and enforced by well-supported federal personnel.

Historic preservation is a nonpartisan issue that touches every district and state. It is central to telling America's full story—recognizing both triumphs and injustices—and to building stronger, more resilient communities. We urge you to act boldly in support of these programs and the dedicated staff who drive their success.

Sincerely,

Albert Kahn Legacy Foundation
Archaeology Southwest
Arizona Preservation Foundation
Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in
Historic Preservation
Build A Better Planet
CalWild
Californians for Western Wilderness
Center for Progressive Reform
Children & Nature Network
Cincinnati Preservation
Climate Relations LLC
Color My Outdoors
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Earthjustice
Energy Works ATL, LLC
Florida Food Policy Council
Forest Keeper
Fowler-Ellis Preservation
Friends of the Earth
GreenLatinos
Hartland Community 4 Youth and Families
Justice Outside
Kuaaina Ulu Auamo
Latino Outdoors
Latinos in Heritage Conservation
Los Padres ForestWatch
Michigan League of Conservation Voters

National Council on Public History
Nature for All
Nebraska Legislature District 5
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
North American Climate, Conservation and
Environment
Northcoast Environmental Center
Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project
Oregon Wild
Post Oak Preservation Solutions
Resource Renewal Institute
RESTORE: The North Woods
Responsible Alpha
Rhode Island Latino Arts | Nuestras Raices
Rio Grande International Study Center
Roots to Resilience
San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
Save San Pascual Park
Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center
Standing Trees
The Wei LLC
Trust for Public Land
West Adams Neighborhood Association
Xolo Museum