



June 28, 2021

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Leger Fernandez:

The undersigned organizations commend you for your leadership in sponsoring an amendment to the INVEST in America Act to permanently authorize the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and increase the authorized amount. We urge your colleagues to approve this amendment.

Since its establishment in the 1970s, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has supported the rescue and rehabilitation of significant historic sites, revitalized communities, and created opportunities for economic growth and job creation. Over the last four decades, the HPF has made possible the survey of millions of acres and identification of numerous cultural resources, resulting in over 95,000 new listings on the National Register, provided millions of dollars for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, and leveraged more than \$162 billion in private investment through the Historic Tax Credit.

However, the HPF has not kept pace with rising demand. The need for additional investments in the HPF has become more critical in recent years as State Historic Preservation Office responsibilities have increased, new Tribal Historic Preservation Offices are established with each new federally recognized tribe, and competitive grant programs are created and expanded. The current economic crisis has only exacerbated the problem, as states seek ways to cut their own budgets, further imperiling this critical part of our infrastructure.

The HPF has never been funded to its authorized amount. Without adequate funding, preservation offices will continue to lack the capacity and ability to carry out programs that support management and preservation of our cultural resources and heritage, and aid community development. Ironically, such slowdowns would end up costing jobs, which will make the budget crises worse. Federal support is vital for ending this vicious cycle.

For these reasons, we strongly support your amendment to permanently authorize the HPF and increase the authorization to \$300 million per year. Your leadership will ensure that the HPF will be even more effective in helping states, communities and tribes protect the places that tell our nation's story. We thank you for your support and urge Congress to adopt this amendment.

Sincerely,

Nathan Boyless  
President  
American Cultural Resources Association

Akhil Gupta  
President  
American Anthropological Association

Deborah L. Nichols  
President  
Society for American Archaeology

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives