



November 26, 2018

Dear Members of Congress:

As nonprofit organizations, businesses, and historians who support historic preservation, we urge you to work with us to preserve and protect our national parks and to support reliable and dedicated funding to address the deferred maintenance backlog of the National Park Service (NPS). Specifically, we ask for your support and cosponsorship of the Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) and Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510).

The National Park System is one of our nation's best ideas – a network of 417 parks and sites that protect spectacular historic, cultural, and natural resources and tell the stories of remarkable people and events in our country's history. The National Park System tells the story of remarkable people and events in our nation's rich history at sites as diverse as Gettysburg National Military Park, Independence Hall, the Statue of Liberty, the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, and Native American cultural sites like Mesa Verde National Park.

National parks, and the historic and cultural sites they protect, are some of our nation's most popular attractions and were visited by over 330 million people last year. Visitors are drawn to neighboring historic Main Street communities every year and in turn, these visitors support local businesses through hotel lodging, food and beverages, gas, and gear needed to explore our country's historic, cultural, and natural sites. According to FY16 data, visitation to the national park system generated an estimated \$18 billion in spending for nearby communities and regions, spending that supported 318,000 jobs and provided a \$35 billion boost to the national economy.

Unfortunately, after over 100 years of operation and inconsistent public funding, the National Park System faces a deferred maintenance backlog estimated at \$11.6 billion, and according to FY17 data, 47% of the backlog is attributed to historic assets. Deferred maintenance in our national parks puts historic and cultural sites at risk of permanent damage or loss, and in the absence of reliable and dedicated funding like that provided by pending legislation, the condition of these assets will continue to deteriorate and become more expensive to repair and preserve in the future.

A reliable, dedicated federal funding source to address the deferred maintenance backlog ensures that we preserve historic buildings, sites, and necessary infrastructure in safe condition, and that parks remain open and accessible so that the public can continue to learn from and experience the stories that tell our nation's history. Our National Park System celebrates our historic and natural treasures, and we have a responsibility to ensure our parks are maintained and preserved so future generations can continue to enjoy and learn from them.

We urge your support for the Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) and Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510) and we look forward to working with Congress to ensure passage of this legislation before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

National Trust for Historic Preservation (DC)

Historic Tax Credit Coalition (DC)

National Main Street Center (IL)

National Trust Community Investment Corporation (DC)

National Trust Insurance Services, LLC (MD)

Alaska Association for Historic Preservation (AK)

Allamakee County Economic Development & Tourism (IA)

Alliance for Historic Wyoming (WY)

American Anthropological Association (VA)

American Association for State and Local History (TN)

American Cultural Resources Association (DC)

Archaeology Southwest (AZ)

Argenta Downtown Council (AR)

Arizona Downtown Alliance (AZ)

Arizona Heritage Alliance (AZ)

Arizona Preservation Foundation (AZ)

Arizona Vintage Sign Coalition (AZ)

Avoca Main Street Inc. (IA)

Baltimore Downtown Restoration (OH)

Baltimore Heritage, Inc. (MD)

bKL Architecture LLC (IL)

Blane, Canada Ltd. (IL)

Boston Main Streets (MA)

Boston Preservation Alliance (MA)

Boyne City Main Street (MI)

Brown County Trust for Historic Preservation (WI)

Buena Vista Main Street (CO)

Cambridge Main Street (OH)

Cardiff 101 Main Street (CA)

Castle Shannon Revitalization Corporation (PA)

City of Clarksburg (WV)

City of Gaffney (SC)

City of Independence (MO)

City of Kenner (LA)

City of Newport, Office of Historic Preservation (KY)

City of Plaquemine (LA)

City of Reno Historic Resources Commissioner (NE)

City of Toccoa (GA)

City of Vicksburg (MS)

CityWide Development Corporation (OH)

Claremore Main Street (OK)

Coalition for American Heritage (DC)

Connecticut Main Street Center, Inc. (CT)

Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (CT)

Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park (OH)

Conway Downtown Partnership (AR)

Cowlitz County, Washington Historic Preservation Commission (WA)

Crowley Main Street (LA)

Cuero Main Street (TX)

Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy (OH)

Dixon Chamber of Commerce & Main Street (IL)

Docomomo, US Georgia Chapter (GA)

Downtown Aberdeen (NC)

Downtown Action Team/Minnesota Main Street (MN)

Downtown Farmington: A MainStreet Project (NM)

Downtown Neighborhood Association (IL)

Downtown Washington, Inc. (MO)

Downtown Waynesville Association (NC)

Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. (NC)

Field Station Cooperative Preschool (IN)

Friends of Hot Springs National Park (AR)

Friends of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial (OH)

Friends of the Natatorium (HI)

Goatfeathers Point Farm, a Countryside Initiative Farm (OH)

Greenfield Berry Farm, a Countryside Initiative Farm (OH)

Harding County Main Street (NM)

Heritage Ohio (OH)

Heritage Works (IA)

Historic Atlanta, Inc. (GA)

Historic Charleston Foundation (SC)

Historic Columbia (SC)

HJKessler Associates (IL)

Hopewell Downtown Partnership (VA)

Indiana Landmarks (IN)

Indianapolis Civil War Round Table (IN)

Innerglass Window Systems, LLC (CT)

JP Centre/South Main Streets (MA)

KCHPC (IL)

Kentucky Main Street/Kentucky Heritage Council (KY)

Knox Heritage (TN)

Latrobe Community Revitalization Program (PA)

Legacy Architecture, Inc. (WI)

Linden Capital LLC (VA)

Madison Trust for Historic Preservation (WI)

Main Street Eureka Springs/Eureka Springs Downtown Network (AR)

Main Street Fort Pierce, Inc. (FL)

Main Street Mason City (IA)

Main Street Momence (IL)

Main Street Siloam Springs (AR)

Main Street Washington (IA)

Main Street Waterloo (IA)

Main Street Wooster, Inc. (OH)

Mainstreet Uptown Butte, Inc. (MT)

Maryland Historical Society (MD)

Maury Donnelly & Parr, Inc. (MD)

McKees Rocks Community Development Corporation (PA)

Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MI)

Michigan Young Preservationists (MI)

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance (WI)

Mississippi Heritage Trust (MS)

Mississippi Main Street Association (MS)
Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. (MO)
Montevallo Main Street (AL)
National Aviation Heritage Alliance (OH)
Nebraska Main Street Network (NE)
Neitenbach Farm, a Countryside Initiative
Farm (OH)
Newkirk Main Street (OK)
Oxbow Orchard, a Countryside Initiative
Farm (OH)
Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries Co, Inc. DBA Erie
Landmark Company (PA)
Picayune Main Street, Inc. (MS)
Piedmont Environmental Council (VA)
Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (MN)
Preservation Houston (TX)
Preservation Iowa (IA)
Preservation League of New York State (NY)
Preservation Maryland (MD)
Preservation Resource Center (LA)
Preservation Strategies (TN)
Preservation Utah (UT)
Preservation Virginia (VA)
Preserve Arkansas (AR)
Providence Preservation Society (RI)
Restore Oregon (OR)

Individuals:

Barton Myers, Associate Professor of History,
Washington and Lee University (VA)
Cathy Wright, Curator, The American Civil War
Museum & White House of the Confederacy (VA)
Chantel Morton (GA)

Rockaway Main Street (MO)
Rosin Preservation (MO)
Saline Main Street (MI)
San Antonio Conservation Society (TX)
Santa Fe Trail Association (KS)
Save Our Heritage Organisation (CA)
Sea Level Consulting (AK)
Site Steward Foundation, Inc. (NM)
Society for American Archaeology (DC)
Society for Historical Archaeology (MD)
South Carolina African American Heritage
Foundation (SC)
Star Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum (MD)
Staunton Downtown Development Association (VA)
Stella Historical Society (WA)
Summerville Dream (SC)
Tennessee Preservation Trust (TN)
The Corner Project (IL)
Tulsa Foundation for Architecture (OK)
Vicksburg Main Street Program (MS)
Wake Forest Downtown, Inc. (NC)
Washington Area Community Investment Fund (DC)
Waukesha Preservation Alliance (WI)
WBNewmanJr., LLC (DC)
Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation
Commissions (WI)

Keith Bohannon, Professor, Department of
History, University of West Georgia (GA)
Matthew McCarty, Student, Roger Williams
University (RI)
Joel Rupley (WA)