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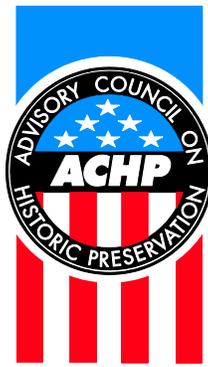
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Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Office of the House Majority Leader
Capitol Building, H-107
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Office of the House Minority Leader
Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives McCarthy and Pelosi:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to express its support for House consideration of H.R. 295, a bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities historic preservation grant program. Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the ACHP is the independent federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on matters relating to historic preservation.

In 1996, Congress authorized the grant program to support the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and structures on the campus of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The funding source is the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The authorization for the program has expired, and the last year that HPF funding was appropriated was 2006. (There was a one-time infusion of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009.) H.R. 295 would authorize appropriations for the program up to \$10 million annually for the next ten years.

Most HBCUs were founded following the Civil War to provide an equal opportunity for education to African Americans during the era of Reconstruction. HBCUs are important symbols of the historic African American struggle for equality and continue to provide education for new generations. However, many historic buildings on these campuses are threatened because of critical rehabilitation needs and limited resources to address them. Reflecting the pressing need for renovation funds, the Department of the Interior is seeking \$3 million in HBCU grant funding in its FY 2017 budget request as part of the Department's broader initiative to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights movement. Reauthorization of the grant program for the next ten years would be in keeping with the continued need for preserving HBCU historic resources.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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Please feel free to contact us if the ACHP can be of any assistance during further consideration of H.R. 1033. Our Executive Director, John Fowler, may be reached at (202) 517-0200.

Sincerely,



Milford Wayne Donaldson

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Chairman