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John M. Fowler
Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

June 24, 2016

The Honorable Don Young, Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and
Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Office Bldg.
200 C Street, SW, 4450
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dr. Raul Ruiz, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and
Alaska Native Affairs
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Office Bldg.
200 C Street, SW, 4450
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Young and Ruiz:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to express its support for the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act (S. 1579), which was passed by the Senate on April 25. 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.

Heritage tourism can be a powerful economic development tool. Attracting visitors to a community creates revenue and jobs, and capitalizing on heritage assets is particularly important since numerous studies have shown that heritage tourists stay longer and spend more than other tourists. Focusing on heritage tourism can also help a community diversify its economy. The NATIVE Act would provide needed support from the federal government to assist Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to build sustainable recreational and cultural travel and tourism infrastructure and capacity. The bill also would assist Indian tribes and Native Hawaiians in providing visitor experiences that are authentic and respectful, thus promoting understanding and respect for diverse cultures.

Please feel free to contact us if the ACHP can be of any assistance during further consideration of S. 2309. Our Executive Director, John Fowler, may be reached at (202) 517-0200.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Chairman

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308 • Washington, DC 20001-2637
Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov