THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

SEP 2 9 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

The Department of the Interior strongly supports the reauthorization of appropriations for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which is set to expire on September 30, 2015. Authorized by Congress in 1976, the HPF was established to carry out provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and is used to provide funds to states and territories, tribes, local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations to identify and protect historic properties. Authorized at $150 million per year since 1980, funding is provided from Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues, not tax dollars. The HPF uses these revenues to help preserve irreplaceable resources that are part of our Nation's cultural identity.

Every year, Congress appropriates funds from the HPF for grants to the State Historic Preservation Offices in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the territories and the freely associated states, and 157 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. Ten percent of state allocations are passed through to more than 1,900 Certified Local Governments throughout the Nation. The HPF grants have supported over 80,000 listings on the National Register of Historic Places and surveys of millions of acres of land for cultural resources. According to the most recent Statistical Report and Analysis of the program, found at http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/taxdocs/tax-incentives-2014statistical.pdf, HPF grants have been responsible for $73.8 billion in private investment through the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HPTC) program - which has, in turn, supported the rehabilitation of more than 40,000 historic buildings and created nearly 2.5 million jobs. During Fiscal Year 2014, states and tribes reviewed and commented on approximately 158,000 Federal undertakings across the country. States also reviewed plans for $3.9 billion in private investment through the HPTC.

Several historic milestones will occur next year: the National Park Service will be celebrating its centennial anniversary; it is the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act; and it is also the 40th anniversary of the HPF. Reauthorization of the HPF would highlight its years of success in preserving our American heritage and continue the support for valuable economic and cultural investments in local communities.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

Sally Jewell

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
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SEP 2 9 2015

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
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SEP 2 9 2015

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Committee on Natural Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva:

The Department of the Interior strongly supports the reauthorization of appropriations for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which is set to expire on September 30, 2015. Authorized by Congress in 1976, the HPF was established to carry out provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and is used to provide funds to states and territories, tribes, local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations to identify and protect historic properties. Authorized at $150 million per year since 1980, funding is provided from Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues, not tax dollars. The HPF uses these revenues to help preserve irreplaceable resources that are part of our Nation's cultural identity.

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

SEP 2 9 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman, Committee Natural Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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