

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 7, 2011

Chairman Donaldson
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Suite 803
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Donaldson,

I am delighted that Vermont's Village Revitalization Initiative is the recipient of the Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation and is being recognized at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's November Business Meeting this week.

The Village Revitalization Initiative has provided important grant support to historic preservation projects across our beautiful state. This support provides not only jobs for local towns, but also fosters a stronger, more vital sense of community. Twenty-five Vermont communities have benefited from this work, and I can speak from experience about one in particular.

In my hometown of Putney, two fires in 2008 and 2009 destroyed our local general store, which also served as our village center. With the help of a grant through the Village Revitalization Initiative, our community was able to rebuild the historic store. This restoration has been vital to our local economy, and as our "gathering place," to Putney's sense of community.

This story is not unique. This program has served 27 projects across Vermont in similar ways.

Senator Patrick Leahy's engagement with historic preservation has been a core aspect of his public service. He has long appreciated that history and stewardship of Vermont's historic and archeological resources are important to all Vermonters and integral assets of vibrant communities. Paul Bruhn and his great team at the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) anchor our state's non-governmental historic preservation efforts. PTV is a key partner in stewarding our unique sense of place and helping Vermont's villages and downtowns remain the dynamic hubs of our lives.

Thank you for your recognition of this initiative and the creative and enormous work that has gone into it. And thank you to the ACHP and all of your partners who support the places in this country that matter to all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor