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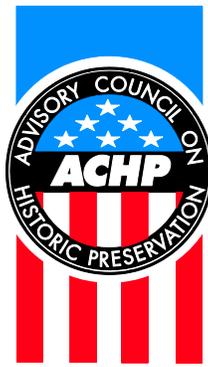
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Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

August 4, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) would like to express its support for Senate consideration of the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act (H.R. 1033), which currently is on the Senate Legislative Calendar. 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.

H.R. 1033 would change the current federal grant program for the acquisition of Civil War battlefield lands to also include Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites. In March 2008, the National Park Service transmitted the *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 Sites in the United States*. The report noted that half of the significant sites associated with these important chapters in our history already have been lost and many of the remaining properties face a variety of threats. Expanding the successful grant program for acquisition of Civil War battlefields would provide states and local communities with needed leverage to fund the preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites.

In the 112th Congress, a similar bill also advanced to placement on the Senate legislative calendar but not taken up by the Senate before that Congress ended. Taking action now on H.R. 1033 would be particularly timely given that America is celebrating the bicentennial of the War of 1812. In little more than a month, our country will observe the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and composition of the poem that would become our national anthem. Senate consideration – and hopefully passage – of H.R. 1033 certainly would be a fitting recognition of this important anniversary.

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) 517-0191.

Sincerely,



Milford Wayne Donaldson

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Chairman