

Jordan E. Tannenbaum  
Vice Chairman

Reid J. Nelson  
Executive Director, Acting



August 30, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

Acting as chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) during that position's current vacancy, I am writing to encourage addressing the protection of cultural resources through the work of the proposed Civilian Climate Corps. 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. The ACHP urges that legislative language regarding the Civilian Climate Corps advanced as part of the budget reconciliation process specifically reference the role the corps can play in helping to manage climate impacts on cultural resources.

Historic buildings and neighborhoods, archaeological sites, culturally important landscapes, and sites important to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations are all at risk from climate change impacts. Their loss can irrevocably change a community's sense of place and erode people's sense of personal identity. The Civilian Climate Corps could play an important role in helping to reduce and mitigate such impacts. The natural and cultural environments of communities are inextricably intertwined in terms of climate impacts, whether it is historic buildings in a coastal community threatened by sea level rise or landscapes culturally important to an Indian tribe threatened by heat, drought, and wildfire. Addressing the effects of climate change on historic places is important if the corps is to comprehensively assist with mitigation and adaptation strategies. However, lack of specific legislative language authorizing the Civilian Climate Corps to undertake cultural resources-related projects could serve to complicate or deter participation of the corps in such activities.

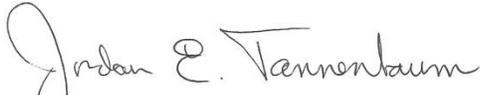
Corps members potentially could help preserve historic places in various ways, such as through undertaking resilience projects, conducting vulnerability assessments, helping to monitor climate impacts, and assisting in documentation or recovery of information from properties in advance of unavoidable loss. In these and other ways, the Civilian Climate Corps could provide a needed influx in human resource capacity to federal agencies, states, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and local communities that are striving to address climate impacts on historic places.

Addressing climate change effects on cultural resources as part of the Civilian Climate Corps' mandate would be in keeping with the federal government's role and responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. In accordance with that Act, the federal government is to be a national preservation leader, provide stewardship and care for historic properties under its control, and foster nonfederal

preservation activities. Climate change adds new challenges to fulfilling these responsibilities and calls for creative approaches, including integrating cultural resource protection into the work of the Civilian Climate Corps.

Please feel free to contact me if the ACHP can be of any assistance during further development of legislative language regarding the Civilian Climate Corps, or your staff may wish to follow up with acting ACHP Executive Director Reid Nelson at [rmnelson@achp.gov](mailto:rmnelson@achp.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan E. Tannenbaum". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jordan E. Tannenbaum  
Vice Chairman