

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman

Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director, Acting



April 28, 2022

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
House Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Raymond House Office Building, 2129
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick T. McHenry
Ranking Member
House Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Raymond House Office Building, 2129
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry:

Acting as chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) during that position's current vacancy, I am writing to express the ACHP's support for the Semiquincentennial Commemorative Coin Act (S. 2384/H.R. 4429). 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 bill is of interest to the historic preservation community, since the profits from the sale of the commemorative coins authorized by the bill would fund restoration, rehabilitation, and interpretation of National Park System units and "related areas."

Historic properties are tangible representations of the past 250 years of American history, and they should play a central role in the semiquincentennial commemoration. Likewise, this anniversary affords an important opportunity to promote the continued preservation and interpretation of the historic places that serve to tell the full American story. Funneling the proceeds from the sale of commemorative coins to units of the National Park System—all of which, to varying degrees, include historic properties—is an apt and creative new revenue stream that will both celebrate and help to preserve and interpret America's historic places.

The bill also would allow funding to go to "related areas" of the National Park System. The ACHP recommends that the term "related areas" be further defined in the bill, with input from the National Park Service, in order to avoid any future confusion. The ACHP would urge that potential candidates for inclusion within such a definition include National Heritage Areas and National Park gateway communities.

Please feel free to contact me if the ACHP can be of any assistance during further consideration of the Semiquincentennial Commemorative Coin Act, or your staff may wish to follow up with acting ACHP Executive Director Reid Nelson at rnelson@achp.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman