

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman

Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director, Acting



July 21, 2022

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

The Honorable John A. Barrasso, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
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 express the ACHP's support for the African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act (S. 3667/H.R. 6805). 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 would establish the United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program, which would include an up-to-\$3 million annual grant program and technical assistance program administered by the National Park Service. The purpose would be to assist federal and nonfederal efforts to identify, interpret, research, and preserve African American burial grounds.

As set out in the bill's statement of findings, African Americans were circumscribed in how and where they buried their dead both during the period of slavery and after. This and other factors have led to many historic African American burial grounds being unmarked, abandoned, or poorly maintained. The proposed grants and technical assistance would assist in locating these important historic resources and in helping to preserve them.

Encouraging the proactive identification of unmarked African American cemeteries also can help to ensure their avoidance during development of construction projects. Discovery of unmarked burials after project construction has already begun can limit preservation options and also potentially cause significant project delays.

Please feel free to contact me if the ACHP can be of any assistance during further consideration of the African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act, or your staff may wish to follow up with acting ACHP Executive Director Reid Nelson at rmelson@achp.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan E. Tannenbaum
Vice Chairman

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Reid J. Nelson
Executive Director, Acting



July 21, 2022

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

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 African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Act (S. 3667/H.R. 6805). 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.

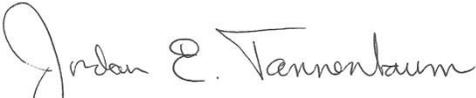
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Vice Chairman