

**Native American Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Preservation Action • Society for American Archaeology
Society for Historical Archaeology**

July 29, 2010

U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the thousands of members and supporters that our groups represent, we strongly encourage you to vote for final passage of the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources (CLEAR) Act of 2010 (HR 3534). We ask that you retain full funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) in the bill, urge you to oppose weakening amendments, and to oppose any Motions to Recommit.

Our organizations are members of the over two-hundred national, regional and local member organizations of the Coalition to Fully Fund the Historic Preservation Fund. We support permanent and guaranteed funding for the HPF, the backbone of the national historic preservation program.

In 1976, Congress established the HPF to support the initiatives mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Modeled after the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the HPF receives its funding through offshore oil and gas lease revenue from the outer-continental shelf (OCS) - using funds from one non-renewable resource to fund another non-renewable resource, our Nation's heritage.

In 1980, Congress authorized \$150,000,000 in annual OCS revenue for deposit into the HPF for the exclusive use of historic preservation activities. In spite of the annual deposits, Congress has never appropriated that amount. In fact since 2001, appropriations have declined from \$94 million to less than \$80 million. Adjusted for inflation, \$150,000,000 in 1980 is the equivalent of over \$411,000,000 today (2009). The FY11 President's Budget proposed just \$54.5 million for the HPF, equaling only 36% of the authorized amount.

The Historic Preservation Fund is not a Federal acquisition program. It is a unique tool that not only supports the preservation of our national heritage, but it creates partnerships between Federal, State and Local interests, generates private investments, stimulates community revitalization and creates jobs. The funds from HPF are used to fund State and Territorial Historic Preservation Offices

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(SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO), Certified Local Governments, Save America's Treasures program and the restoration of facilities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

This funding is vital to our communities, to generating jobs and to preserving our shared heritage. In 2009, the Rehabilitation Tax Credit, administered by SHPOs, leveraged nearly \$5 billion in private investment and created over 70,000 jobs. There are currently over 100 THPOs, compared to only 12 in FY96 when the program was first funded. Unfortunately, the amount of funds appropriated. Save America's Treasures generated \$377 in private investment and created more than 16,000 jobs.

Your support for the HPF is very important to us and we respectfully request you vote YES for the CLEAR Act of 2010 (HR 3534).

Respectfully,

D. Bambi Kraus
President
Native American Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

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