

RE: Federal Historic Preservation Fund

Dear [Senator/Member of Congress],

I am writing to express my gratitude for your support of the **Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)** and to share continued concerns about the proposed elimination of this vital program in the **Fiscal Year 2026 Discretionary Budget Request**.

Thank you for your role in ensuring the release of FY2025 HPF funding, which enables Georgia's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to carry out essential work—reviewing historic tax credit projects, nominating sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and supporting preservation efforts in communities across our state.

While the release of FY25 funds is a significant victory, the proposed elimination of the HPF in FY2026 remains deeply concerning. The HPF is the **lifeblood of historic preservation in Georgia**, supporting a range of activities including National Register nominations, public outreach, and the legally required review of Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects.

It's important to note that the HPF is not funded through taxpayer dollars. Instead, it is supported by fees from offshore oil and gas leases on federal lands—**its elimination does not reduce the federal deficit**, but it would severely undercut preservation efforts nationwide.

In Georgia alone, between 2019 and 2023, projects utilizing the historic tax credit generated more than **\$870 million in private investment**, revitalizing communities, creating jobs, and preserving our shared heritage.

As a Georgia resident, I urge you to continue championing this important program by ensuring **strong FY2026 appropriations for the HPF** in the upcoming Interior & Environment Appropriations bill. These funds are essential for helping the SHPO fulfill its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, particularly as the nation prepares to commemorate the 2026 Semiquincentennial.

Continued bipartisan support of HPF funding is essential not only for preserving Georgia's rich history but also for strengthening our communities through revitalization and job creation. I am grateful for your service and hope I can count on your strong advocacy for this vital funding.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]