



August 1, 2018

Senator Orrin Hatch  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mike Lee  
361A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Hatch and Lee:

As organizations devoted to the promotion of America's commitment to historic preservation, we write to express our support for the Golden Spike 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Act, S 2831. We are pleased that the House version of the bill, HR 5751, passed on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and look forward to Senate passage of the bill as well.

America's first transcontinental railroad deserves recognition as a technological marvel and significant turning point in our national history. Your legislation will help ensure that future generations of Americans can learn about and appreciate this historic development.

Establishing Golden Spike National Historic Park as America's 52<sup>nd</sup> U.S. historic park is a fitting tribute to the significance of the site.

We appreciate the way your bill links several sites associated with the transcontinental railroad into a National Park Service network, similar to the National Civil Rights Network Act. We believe that such networks are an effective means of conveying the breadth of people and communities that worked together to achieve a remarkable national goal. Further, the network allows a locally controlled mechanism to tie historic preservation, rural communities, and economic development all together in a meaningful way. This framework allows local communities to join the network and celebrate their own unique position in the story.

The Golden Spike 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Act is an opportunity to honor the many Americans who worked to unify our nation through rail travel and through pride in what we can achieve as a country. Business and elected leaders of the time displayed visionary leadership in supporting a bipartisan investment in crucial infrastructure. Immigrant Chinese workers, Civil War veterans, Irish immigrants, and others were instrumental to the success of the railroad. The contributions of these communities make this a truly American story.

Thank you for introducing the Golden Spike 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Act. Your leadership is crucial to preserving the legacy of achievement represented at Promontory Summit.

Sincerely,

Coalition for American Heritage  
American Anthropological Association  
American Cultural Resources Association

Society for American Archaeology  
Society for Historical Archaeology  
Preservation Utah