

May 9, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment and  
Related Agencies  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

Thank you for renewing Congressional support for the Save America's Treasures (SAT) competitive grants program for the preservation of nationally significant sites, structures and artifacts. After a seven-year lapse in funding, the Congress allocated \$5 million for the program in FY17, \$13 million in FY18, and \$13 million in FY19. As we look to the FY20 appropriations process, we are heartened by the Congress's recent investments in Save America's Treasures, and we respectfully request that you consider allocating \$15 million for the program in FY20, a modest increase from FY19's \$13 million level.

At the close of the FY17 grant application deadline, some 140 grant applications totaling \$30 million had been submitted to compete for the \$5 million available for that fiscal year. Award recipients for FY17 funds were announced last September and included \$4.8 million in grants to help fund 16 projects in 13 states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Applications for FY18 funded SAT grants were due in early December, with recipients expected to be announced later this year.

The SAT program captures the breadth, diversity and history of this nation's achievements, values and struggles. The program's completed restoration and preservation projects include the 'Star Spangled Banner' that flew above Fort McHenry during the War of 1812 and now hangs in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History; Thomas Edison's laboratory and its thousands of documents; the poems carved by Chinese immigrants in the walls of Angel Island; Mesa Verde's cliff dwellings and its collections of Native American artifacts; and Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church. SAT has inspired countless Americans to make remarkable discoveries in their own communities, while leveraging more than \$377 million in private investment and contributing more than 16,000 jobs to local and state economies for the rescue, rehabilitation and reuse of structures, and the conservation of artwork, documents and artifacts.

Using revenue from Outer Continental Shelf oil leases via the Historic Preservation Fund—not tax dollars—and requiring dollar-for-dollar private matching funds, SAT is administered through a partnership between the National Park Service, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Save America's Treasures is critical to preserving America's most significant historic and cultural heritage resources for current and future generations. As demonstrated by the number of recent applications, the unmet funding need is great, and federal support for this public-private grant program is essential to help restore and conserve our nationally significant structures, collections, and artifacts. Through funded projects and community engagement in the preservation and conservation process, SAT enables new stories of history and culture to be revealed and added to the American narrative and identity.

We greatly appreciate the strong support Congress has shown for the preservation of our nation's heritage. We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process and thank you for your consideration.

For questions, please contact Adam Jones with the National Trust for Historic Preservation ([ajones@savingplaces.org](mailto:ajones@savingplaces.org); 202-588-6067).

Sincerely,

National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Americans for the Arts  
American Institute of Architects  
American Alliance of Museums  
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers  
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers  
Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts  
Coalition for American Heritage  
American Cultural Resources Association  
Society for Historical Archaeology  
Society for American Archaeology  
American Anthropological Association  
Archaeological Institute of America  
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation  
Preservation Maryland