



**National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rush D. Holt
1214 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Historic Homeowners Assistance Act

Dear Congressmen Turner and Holt:

On behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I am writing in support of the Historic Homeowners Assistance Act. The National Trust has long supported efforts to incentivize the rehabilitation of historic properties and this legislation would strengthen the ability of many communities to preserve and restore our rich heritage of buildings and neighborhoods that have come to define the American experience.

Given the very real prospect that Congress will consider comprehensive tax reform in the 113th Congress, the National Trust is engaged in a campaign to ensure the tax code appropriately takes into account the importance of investing in the preservation of our historic resources. Toward this end the National Trust is working to ensure the Historic Tax Credit remains a part of the Internal Revenue Code and that opportunities to improve the credit are considered. Since it was permanently written into the tax code more than 30 years ago, the HTC has leveraged nearly \$106 billion in private investment, created 2.3 million jobs and adapted more than 38,700 buildings for productive uses.

Similarly, the Historic Homeowners Assistance Act has the potential to assist older distressed communities, restore historic neighborhoods, and combat sprawl. This tax credit would provide a much-needed boost to older neighborhoods in our cities and towns, where once vibrant communities have declined for want of adequate incentives for reinvestment.

Our central cities and older suburbs have an enormous but dwindling inventory of sound houses and older commercial buildings, much of which has historic or architectural importance. The decline of our nation's older communities puts these historic resources, and the neighborhoods themselves, at great risk. If we lose these neighborhoods, we will lose the physical fabric of our nation that gives our communities their distinctive character and sense of place.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting our nation's historic resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr., Vice President of Government Relations and Policy