

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

FUNDING FOR PRESERVE AMERICA AND SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES

Federal Support for Community Economic Development, Heritage Tourism Efforts, and Bricks and Mortar Grants

March 2006

STATUS

On February 7, 2006, President Bush delivered his FY2007 budget proposal to Congress. The Administration recommends funding Preserve America at \$10 million and Save America's Treasures at \$14.8 million.

REQUEST

Support the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus' request for \$30 million for Preserve America and Save America's Treasures (SAT), two complementary federal grant programs.

Preserve America was inaugurated in 2003 as a preservation initiative to help smaller communities make the most of their historic assets. The program funds planning to support heritage tourism and educational programming through creative public-private partnerships. The program is administered by the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. It relates to Executive Order 13287 directing all federal agencies to work in concert to support historic preservation and public-private partnerships that will increase the effectiveness of federal programs. Preserve America works cooperatively with many federal agencies including the U.S. Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Education; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; and the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

Currently, over 300 communities nationwide have earned Preserve America designation.

With broad bipartisan support in Congress and the leadership of First Ladies in both the Clinton and Bush Administrations, SAT funds have brought new life to irreplaceable historic treasures – including buildings, documents and works of art – in every state.

Save America's Treasures leverages millions of additional dollars from foundations, corporations, and individuals, and has literally made the difference in saving hundreds of historic sites around the country. Every federal dollar granted must be matched by a non-federal dollar, thus doubling its value. A reduction in SAT funding would send the wrong signal to the private sector – a message that would seriously compromise the program's goals and undermine the leveraging value of the government's stewardship role in the places and objects that tell America's story.



The National Historic Preservation Act and its resulting cultural, educational, and economic benefits over the past 40 years, have been vital to fostering a preservation ethic across the nation. 2006 will be dedicated to celebrating and building awareness and support for the National Historic Preservation Act and the value of preservation.

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