

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND REAUTHORIZATION UNTIL 2015

### ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IMPROVEMENTS

March 6, 2006

**H.R. 3446**

Introduced by  
**Rep. Nick Rahall II**  
(D-WV)

**S. 1378**

Introduced by  
**Sen. Jim Talent**  
(R-MO)

#### COSPONSORS

**Sen. George Allen (R-VA)**  
**Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI)**  
**Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)**

#### STATUS

The authorization for deposits from off-shore oil lease revenues into the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) expired on September 30, 2005. H.R. 3446 and S. 1378 provide for the reauthorization of HPF deposits as well as making technical amendments relative to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

#### REQUEST

1. Amend Section 108 of the National Historic Preservation Act, (16 U. S. C. 470h) by changing the date "2005" to "2015." This change would reauthorize deposits into the Historic Preservation Fund for a decade.
2. Enact the technical amendments for the ACHP.

#### THE PROGRAM

In 1976, Congress created the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Modeled after the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the HPF receives annual deposits of \$150 million from off-shore oil lease revenues. The rationale is that part of the proceeds from the depletion of a non-renewable natural resource, oil, should be devoted to the enhancement of a non-renewable resource, historic properties.

The HPF provides the federal government revenues to support the nation's historic preservation program. State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) use their HPF allocation to identify historic resources, nominate significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places (12,000 annually), and work with federal agencies to minimize adverse impacts on historic resources resulting from federal projects (over \$100,000 annually). SHPOs, in addition, work with developers to achieve a 20% federal income tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic properties (over \$2 billion annually). SHPOs also transfer 10% of their allocation to local governments for historic preservation activities. Both SHPOs and THPOs use the products of the HPF investment as the foundation for heritage tourism, an important component of sustainable economic development.

#### THE ACHP

The ACHP has a successful forty-year track record that merits a permanent authorization for the agency as well as the other technical amendments including an increase in membership and the improvements related to financial administration.



*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.*

For more information contact

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