

# NCSHPO

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

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September 28, 2009

The Honorable Russ Carnahan  
1710 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Carnahan:

On behalf of the 56 State Historic Preservation Offices, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) thanks you for introducing the Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act of 2009. The NCSHPO fully endorses this legislation which will provide much needed financial tools used rehabilitate historic homes and will ensure that historic homes and districts, rural and urban alike, will retain their sense of character and place for generations to come.

The Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act fills a gap in the preservation world. Financial tools and resources exist for the restoration and rehabilitation commercial and public buildings however, homeowners of historic houses have been offered no such incentives. This bill would help fill that gap by creating a new tax credit equal to 20 percent of the qualified rehabilitation expenditures made by a homeowner with respect to a qualified historic home.

Historic preservation has long been noted as an economic driver in community revitalization. In 2008, the commercial rehabilitation tax credit spurred \$5.64 billion in private investment and created over 67,000 jobs. In the 1985 Jobs Act, Congress awarded an additional \$25 million specifically for historic preservation development grants, creating over 14,000 jobs and nearly \$50 million in private matching funds.

Historic preservation is the stewardship of the built environment, using historic homes, buildings and communities to achieve environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability. Our nation's existing homes and buildings are one of our greatest renewable resources and through reuse, reinvestment, and retrofitting historic homes can meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations.

Thank you again for introducing such an important piece of legislation and we look forward to working with you to advance its passage.

Sincerely,



Nancy Schamu  
Executive Director