

Preserve America/Save America's Treasures Act (S.2262/H.R.3981)

Authorizing Grants to Invest in America's Historic Resources

March 2008

STATUS

On October 2007, the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act (S.2262/H.R.3981) was introduced in Congress. Original co-sponsors include Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), and Representatives Brad Miller (D-NC) and Michael Turner (R-OH). This legislation would provide permanent authorization for the Preserve America initiative as well as the Save America's Treasures program.

REQUEST

Cosponsor S.2262/H.R.3961, and authorize the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures grant programs.

BACKGROUND

S.2262/H.R.3981 would formally establish the Preserve America initiative, provide legislative authorization for the Preserve America grants, and codify the process for designating Preserve America Communities and making them eligible for those grants. The bill authorizes spending for the Save America's Treasures program, and in so doing provides matching funds to revitalize America's most significant landmarks.

Preserve America grants support projects in five categories: research and documentation, planning, interpretation and education, marketing, and training. The program does not fund bricks-and-mortar projects but rather complements the Save America's Treasures grant program by helping local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets. Successful projects feature public-private partnerships and serve as models to communities nationwide for work in heritage tourism, historic preservation, education, and economic development.

The Save America's Treasures grant program leverages millions of additional dollars from foundations, corporations, and individuals, and has literally made the difference in saving hundreds of nationally significant 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 by undermining its leveraging value and governmental stewardship role in the places and objects that tell America's story.

Current cosponsors:

Representatives: Neil Abercrombie (D-HI); Marsha Blackburn (R-TN); Earl Blumenauer (D-OR); Madeleine Bordallo (GU); Nancy Boyda (D-KS); Henry Brown (R-SC); Ben Chandler (D-KY); Donna Christensen (D-VI); Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO); Steve Cohen (D-TN); Tom Cole (R-OK); Danny Davis (D-IL); Lincoln Davis (D-TN); Sam Farr (D-CA); Randy Forbes (R-VA); Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY); Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD); Brian Higgins (D-NY); Patrick Kennedy (D-RI); James Langevin (D-RI); Sander Levin (D-MI); Carolyn Maloney (D-NY); Betty McCollum (D-MN); Mike McIntyre (D-NC); Harry Mitchell (D-AZ); Alan Mollohan (D-WV); James Moran (D-VA); Jerrold Nadler (D-NY); David Price (D-NC); Deborah Pryce (R-OH); Silvestre Reyes (D-TX); Thomas Reynolds (R-NY); Janice Schakowsky (D-IL); Jose Serrano (D-NY); Louise Slaughter (D-NY); and Peter Welch (D-VT).

Senators: Lamar Alexander (R-TN); Jeff Bingaman (D-NM); Richard Burr (R-NC); Mel Martinez (R-FL).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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