

# Congressional Support for Historic Preservation in 2009

*National-level partnering preservation organizations respectfully request improvements to federal-level preservation funding and incentives for historic preservation activities in 2009, including: incentives for historic home rehabilitation, improved incentives for commercial historic rehabilitation activity, funding for historic preservation projects, and adequate funding for mandated historic preservation programs.*

## Save America's Treasures: Bricks and Mortar Grants for the Nation's Most Significant Historic Properties

### STATUS

The Save America's Treasures (SAT) program is presently funded at FY2008 levels (\$24.61 million) under a temporary continuing resolution (CR) that was set to expire on March 6, 2009. The House has passed a revised version of the CR as an omnibus spending bill (HR 1105) that reduces SAT funding levels for FY2009 to \$20 million, with \$10 million earmarked for special projects by Congress -- leaving just \$10 million for competitive awards. The Senate has yet to complete work on the omnibus spending bill and will pass a temporary CR until March 10th to finish its work.

### REQUEST

Support \$30 million for Save America's Treasures (SAT).

### BACKGROUND

SAT leverages millions of 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.

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. SAT has also provided tremendous benefit to projects at National Park Service (NPS) sites such as Ellis Island, Valley Forge, Thomas Edison's Invention Factory, Mesa Verde, Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill Cottage, and Dr. Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church.

FY06 Enacted	FY07 CR Final Level	FY'08 Enacted Levels **	FY'09 Proposed Budget	FY'09 House Markup Level	FY'09 Omnibus Levels
\$29.558	\$7.69	\$24.61	\$15.0	\$25.0	\$20

\*Funded in National Recreation budget within Interior (not included within HPF total)

\*\*Includes .056% across-the-board cut in all discretionary account

Preservation is Sustainability.