

Historic Preservation Fund Appropriations FY 2006 for **Indian Tribes Line Item**

Restore Funding to America's Heritage Resources

Status:

On February 7, 2005, President Bush delivered his FY 2006 budget to Congress. The Administration request calls for level funding for the Tribal line item which supports the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), a tribal competitive grant program, and National Park Service Administrative costs. Level represents an actual decrease of 40% or \$2.15 million since FY '01 for all tribal programs. This decline is proving catastrophic for all Tribes because it comes at a time when new Tribes are signing agreements with the National Park Service to collaborate on meeting the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, per Sec. 101 (d) (2). Without additional funds to support additional tribes, the end result is that each tribe receives smaller and smaller federal support. The National Park Service and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices estimates that there will be at least 60 THPOs seeking funding in FY 2006. Since FY 2001, the average award per THPO has fallen from \$154,815 to under \$53,000, a decline of 66%! Without an increase in FY 2006, the average award will drop below \$48,000. That level is not enough to fund one staff person, let alone a program.

Funding for Tribal Line Item (in millions of dollars):

	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY 04	FY 05	FY06 Admin	FY06 Request
THPOs	4.18	2.25	2.25				
Competitive Grants	1.21	.670	.660				
Total	5.4	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.2	12

The Request:

An investment of \$12 million in FY 2006 to the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices through the Department of Interior Appropriations Bill will be multiplied many times over. Already, most Tribes match every federal dollar 3 to 1. The increase will reverse decades of inequity in funding for tribal historic resources, stabilize funding for all THPOs, and accommodate new THPOs at a reasonable base level of funding.

What THPOs will accomplish with increased funding:

- ~ Increase average staff for THPOs from one to three persons
- ~ Provide more timely compliance with federal, state, and tribal historic preservation laws
- ~ Undertake collaborative partnerships for social, education, and economic development projects
- ~ Provide direct financial assistance to specific preservation projects on tribal lands

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