



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair  
Interior Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Chair  
Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall  
Ranking Minority Member  
Interior Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murkowski, Chair Calvert, and Ranking Members Udall and McCollum:

As Main Street organizations, businesses, and communities who support historic preservation, we urge you to protect our national parks and support guaranteed funding for deferred maintenance needs.

Last year marked the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Park Service (NPS), which oversees 417 natural and cultural areas in all 50 states and most U.S. territories. The National Park System tells the story of diverse people and events in our nation's rich history at sites as varied as Gettysburg National Military Park, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Joshua Tree National Park, and Native American cultural sites like Bandelier National Monument.

National parks draw millions of tourists through neighboring Main Street communities every year. In turn, these visitors support local businesses through hotel lodging, food and beverages, gas, and gear needed to explore our country's historic, cultural, and natural sites. In 2015 alone, our nation's parks generated an estimated \$16.9 billion in spending in nearby communities. That spending supported 295,300 jobs in local businesses and provided a \$32 billion boost to the national economy. In 2016, visitors shattered the previous record with more than 325 million visits to national park sites.

NPS faces a growing challenge in maintaining its sites to ensure that visitors can experience the parks' natural beauty and learn about our nation's history. After decades of underfunding, NPS has a backlog of deferred maintenance estimated at \$12 billion (FY 2015), of which over \$3 billion is attributed to historic, non-transportation related structures and sites. Some of the National Park Service's most significant historic sites are at risk of falling into disrepair. For example, the Statue of Liberty National Monument in New York Harbor, which includes Ellis Island—an iconic symbol of American freedom and immigration—has repair needs of over \$160 million.

Historic and cultural sites in the National Park System are testaments to our citizens' valor, our hardships, our victories, and our American traditions. Deferred maintenance in our national parks puts historic sites—which draw visitors to gateway Main Street communities—at risk of permanent damage or loss. A reliable, dedicated federal funding source to address the deferred maintenance backlog ensures that we preserve historic buildings, sites, and necessary infrastructure so that parks remain open, safe and accessible. Doing so will allow the public to continue to experience the stories that tell our nation's history, and support the communities and businesses that rely on them as economic engines. Our National Park System celebrates our historic and natural treasures, and we have a responsibility to ensure our parks are maintained and preserved so visitors can continue to enjoy them today and into the future.

Sincerely,

Absolutely Waterford, Waterford, WI  
Agua Fria Open Space Alliance, Inc., Humboldt, AZ  
Alamogordo Main Street, Alamogordo, NM  
Allentown Association, Buffalo, NY  
Alliance for Historic Wyoming, Laramie, WY  
American Legion Aux Halfman Unite #352, Deshler, NE  
Arizona Conservation Partners, Phoenix, AZ  
Arizona Downtown Alliance, Phoenix, AZ  
Arizona Heritage Alliance, Mesa, AZ  
Arizona State University, Chandler, AZ  
Artesia Arts & Cultural District, Artesia, NM  
Artesia Main Street, Artesia, NM  
Audubon Park Garden District, Orlando, FL  
Avoca Main Street Inc., Avoca, IA  
Back County Horsemen, Cornville, AZ  
Barelas Community Coalition, Albuquerque, NM  
Berggren Architects, Lincoln, NE  
Building a Better Boyertown, Boyertown, PA  
Cadiz-Trigg County Tourist Commission  
Cambridge Main Street, Cambridge, OH  
Carlsbad Main Street, Carlsbad, NM  
Carrollton Main Street Program, Carrollton, KY  
Casa Grande Historic Preservation Commission, Casa Grande, AZ  
CB Fox Department Store, Los Alamos, NM  
City of Safford, Safford, AZ  
Claremore Main Street, Claremore, OK  
Clovis Main Street, Clovis, NM  
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Tucson, AZ  
Colfax Main Street, Colfax, IA  
Conway Downtown Partnership, Conway, AR  
Cornerstones, Chattanooga, TN  
Deming Luna County Main Street Program, Deming, NM  
The District (Downtown Redevelopment), Bowling Green, KY  
Downtown Albuquerque Arts & Cultural District, Albuquerque, NM  
Downtown Dover Partnership, Dover, DE  
Downtown Farmington: A Main Street Program, Farmington, NM  
Downtown Lewistown, Inc., Lewistown, PA  
Downtown Sheridan Association, Sheridan, WY  
Downtown Washington, Inc., Washington, MO  
Dublin Downtown Development Authority, Dublin, GA  
Easton Main Street Initiative, Easton, PA  
Ebensburg Main Street Partnership, Ebensburg, PA  
Elm Street (Intergenerational) Center, Red Cloud, NE  
Esperanza, Philadelphia, PA  
Farmville Downtown Partnership, Farmville, VA  
Fort Madison Main Street, Fort Madison, IA  
FrontdoorBack Main Street Store Design, Vancouver, WA

Frostburg Main Street, Frostburg, MD  
Gage County Tourism, Beatrice, NE  
Gallup Main Street Arts & Cultural District, Gallup, NM  
Grants Main Street Project, Grants, NM  
Grayling Town Main Street, Grayling, MI  
Harding County Main Street EDC, Roy, NM  
Heritage Consulting, Philadelphia, PA  
Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, Washington, DC  
Howell Main Street, Inc., Howell, MI  
Hyde Jackson Square Main Street, Jamaica Plain, MA  
Impact Services Corporation and Community Development, Philadelphia, PA  
La Grange Main Street, La Grange, TX  
Lakewood Alive, Lakewood, OH  
Lapeer Main Street, Lapeer, MI  
Laramie Main Street, Laramie, WY  
Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, Las Vegas, NM  
Laurel Redevelopment Corporation, Laurel, DE  
Lawrenceburg Main Street, Lawrenceburg, IN  
Leesville Main Street, Leesville, LA  
Lincoln Train Museum, Gettysburg, PA  
Los Alamos Main Street, Los Alamos, NM  
Louisiana Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA  
Lovington Main Street, Lovington, NM  
Main Street, Eunice, LA  
Main Street Alexander City, Alexander City, AL  
Main Street Beatrice, Inc., Beatrice, NE  
Main Street Cumberland, Cumberland, MD  
Main Street Delaware City, Inc., Delaware City, DE  
Main Street Dyersburg, Dyersburg, TN  
Main Street Fort Pierce Inc., Fort Pierce, FL  
Main Street Kent, Kent, OH  
Main Street Libertyville, Libertyville, IL  
Main Street Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant, IA  
Main Street Ottumwa, Ottumwa, IA  
Main Street Perryville, Inc., Perryville, KY  
Main Street Roswell, Roswell, NM  
Main Street Steamboat Springs, Steamboat Springs, CO  
Main Street Thermopolis, Thermopolis, WY  
Main Street Truth or Consequences, Truth or Consequences, NM  
Main Street Wooster, Inc., Wooster, OH  
Main Street Vermilion, Vermilion, OH  
Main Street Vineland, Vineland, NJ  
Maria Salvucci, Phoenix, AZ  
Marion Main Street, Marion, KY  
Marquette Downtown Development Authority, Marquette, MI  
Metuchen Downtown Alliance, Metuchen, NJ  
Metzger's Do it Best Hardware, Los Alamos, NM  
The Milk District, Orlando, FL  
Minden Main Street, Minden, LA  
Montevallo Main Street, Montevallo, AL

Natchitoches Main Street, Natchitoches, LA  
North 5th Street Revitalization Project, Philadelphia, PA  
North Rampart Main Street, New Orleans, LA  
Okmulgee Main Street, Okmulgee, OK  
Otsego Main Street, Otsego, ME  
The Oyster Bay Main Street Association, Oyster Bay,  
NY  
Paris Main Street, Paris, TX  
Pennsylvania Downtown Center, Harrisburg, PA  
Perry Main Street Advisory Board, Perry, GA  
Pioneers' Cemetery Association, Phoenix, AZ  
Plaquemine Main Street, Plaquemine, LA  
Ponca City Main Street, Ponca City, OK  
Puyallup Main Street Association, Puyallup, WA  
Rosin Preservation, Kansas City, MO  
Ruston Main Street, Ruston, LA  
Save Our Ancient Redrocks, Inc. (SOAR), Sedona, AZ  
Sedona Main Street Program, Sedona, AZ  
Sevanden Enterprises, Inc., Tucson, AZ  
Shakopee Main Street, Shakopee, MN  
Small Town Main Street, Mocksville, NC

Springfield Main Street Program, Springfield, KY  
Story City Greater Chamber Connection, Story City, IA  
SW New Mexico Arts Culture and Tourism, Silver City,  
NM  
Sykesville Main Street, Sykesville, MD  
Town of Delmar, Delmar, MD  
Tucumcari Main Street Corporation, Tucumcari, NM  
Trout Unlimited, Tempe, AZ  
Wake Forest Downtown, Inc., Wake Forest, NC  
Wheeling Heritage, Wheeling, WV  
White Tanks Conservancy, Litchfield Park, AZ  
Winnsboro Main Street, Winnsboro, LA  
Woodbine Main Street, Woodbine, IA  
Women Helping All People, Marin City, CA  
Wynne Brown LLC, Tucson, AZ  
Vail Historic Preservation Society, Tucson, AZ  
Village of Eagle Nest, Eagle Nest, NM  
Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh,  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Zen and Now, LLC, Gettysburg, PA  
Zuni Pueblo Main Street, Zuni, NM