

June 17, 2014

Jonathan B Jarvis
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

As the leading organizations representing design, construction and historic preservation professionals, we recognize the important role that the National Park Service (NPS) plays in its leadership of the national historic preservation movement and the responsibilities entailed in overseeing the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA).

Looking towards the 50th anniversary of the NHPA, our organizations hope to spend the next few years leading up to 2016 highlighting the importance of historic preservation generally and educating policymakers on the incredible return on investment that every dollar spent on historic preservation brings to future generations. This milestone is an opportunity for our nation to recommit to the Act, and the values implicit in the sites that tell the stories of our nation's history and heritage.

To this end, we encourage you to continue the important work that the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS); the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER); and the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) do in educating current and future generations on the rich historical tapestry that makes up our nation's landscape. The programs are responsible for the documentation and preservation of our nation's architectural, industrial and landscape heritage through measured drawings, historical reports, and large-format photography.

The documentation projects under the HABS/HAER/HALS programs are particularly important because of the many unpredictable and irreversible changes that historic sites, structures and landscapes undergo due to forces of nature, neglect, commercial and residential development, and other events. Therefore, in some instances, the measured drawings, photography, and written reports are the only accurate evidence of these special and historic spaces, which can be used to educate and benefit future generations. As identified by the NPS Cultural Resource Challenge, expanding HABS/HAER/HALS is an important step toward the goal of preserving our heritage through documentation.

Not only are these Cultural Resource Partnership programs an important resource for architects, landscape architects, engineers, and preservation professions, the largest growing user group is K through 12 students and educators. The online collection receives approximately 50,000 visits per month, making it the most used architectural collection within the Library. We encourage your continuing support and funding of these programs so that the National Park Service can continue this vital work and so that this work may become a more robust tool for educators and students in the future.

We understand that in this fiscal environment tough choices have to be made, but we are deeply concerned that these programs may be subject to significant downsizing in the future that could effectively spell the end of them. In evaluating where cuts or streamlining may be made within the

National Park Service, we strongly urge you to give careful consideration to the Cultural Resources programs, given the over 80 years of continued contributions to not only our professions and industries, but also to the future generations of Americans.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Institute of Architects

American Society of Landscape Architects

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Cc: The Honorable Earl Blumenauer

The Honorable Ken Calvert

The Honorable Rush Holt

The Honorable Jim Moran

The Honorable Michael Turner