



# CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

## FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Main Line: 928-213-2000

Website: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov>

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 05, 2025

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

The undersigned organizations representing Americans from across the country urge Congressional action to renew the long-term authorization of annual deposits to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF).

With the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, Congress declared, “the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development.” As we prepare to commemorate America’s 250th anniversary next year, the time has come for the federal government to renew its commitment to preserve, enhance, and promote the history of our great nation.

In keeping with this responsibility, the HPF represents nearly half a century of federal, state, Tribal, and private sector collaboration. Created in the 1970s and administered by the National Park Service (NPS), the HPF supports the expertise of State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in protecting and sharing the American story. The program also supports the administration of the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic Tax Credit program, facilitates delivery of critical infrastructure projects through statutorily required preservation reviews, and empowers competitive brick and mortar grant programs that support America’s most important preservation efforts. Nearly every community across the country has benefitted from HPF investments, from the transformation of the Hale Bathhouse in Hot Springs, Arkansas, into a thriving hotel utilizing the Historic Tax Credit program; to Save America’s Treasures projects across California, including the Mendocino Woodlands State Park – and many more across all 50 states, territories and the District of Columbia.

For over half a century, annual deposits to the HPF have remained fixed at \$150 million—unchanged despite the program’s clear success and the escalating demands placed on SHPO and THPO offices. After adjusting for inflation, the current deposits into the HPF would be equivalent to nearly \$850 million per year. With Congress consistently allocating more funding than the program’s authorized deposit each year, it



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is time to realign the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) with Congressional intent to ensure its continued success over the next 50 years. During this important anniversary year, the federal government must lead the nation in demonstrating a strong, long-term commitment to preserving our nation's history.

We commend the efforts of the House of Representative's Historic Preservation Caucus, led by Congressman Mike Turner (R-OH) and Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM), in introducing the bipartisan Historic Preservation Fund Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3418) to reauthorize the HPF annual deposit, with proposed increases from \$150 million to \$250 million annually for 10 years. We cannot think of more fortuitous timing as we prepare for the 50th anniversary of the Historic Preservation Fund in 2026, in addition to commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence, the 60th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the 50th anniversary of the Historic Tax Credit program. This moment presents an important opportunity to unite Americans as we reflect upon our nation's humble beginnings, its tragedies and triumphs, and its rise to prominence as a beacon of hope the world over.

Today, we ask for the help of Congress in upholding a commitment to America's story by passing the Historic Preservation Reauthorization Act.

Sincerely,

Becky Daggett,  
Mayor, City of Flagstaff, on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council