



The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2007 Rayburn House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
U.S. Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Joyce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2065 Rayburn House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20006

April 13, 2022

**T** (800) 242 3837  
**F** (202) 626 7547

Dear Chair Merkley, Ranking Member Murkowski, Chairwoman Pingree  
and Ranking Member Joyce,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents over 94,000 architects and design professionals. Since 1857, we have been committed to safeguarding the public's health, safety, and welfare, and to improving our nation's quality of life through design. Inextricable to that mission is the AIA's commitment to the preservation of unique and irreplaceable buildings. We respectfully submit the following recommendations for appropriations in the FY 2023 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies for your consideration.

As you know, buildings currently account for roughly forty percent of carbon emissions. Roughly eleven percent comes from embodied carbon—the emissions generated during construction or in the process to make and transport materials. The rest is operational carbon—the emissions generated through using the building. Rather than outdated structures that we hope to replace, older buildings should be valued as climate assets that we cannot afford to waste. Preservationists have long considered building conservation an essential tool to realize quick and sharp carbon emissions reductions, and former AIA President Carl Elefante, FAIA underscored this when he coined the phrase “the greenest building is... one that is already built.”

AIA also regards historic preservation as an effective vehicle for advancing equity and making justice a deliberate aim of the building

process, both unmistakable pillars of our *2021-2025 Strategic Plan* and the *Guides for Equitable Practice*. With earnest and enduring federal support, communities across the nation may continue to benefit from invaluable connections to architecture with a special connection to American heritage.

As the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies considers investments for FY 2023, we urge you to include the following investments in the built environment:

**National Park Service (NPS):**

- \$200 million for Historic Preservation Fund

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**

- \$75 million for the Energy STAR Program

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM):**

- \$25 million for Cultural Resources Management

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP):**

- \$10 million for the overall operations of the ACHP

**National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH):**

- \$230 million for the overall operations of the NEH

**Commission of Fine Arts:**

- \$4 million for the overall operations of the Commission

The AIA stands ready to serve as a resource to you as you evaluate these funding priorities. We look forward to continuing to work with you to find ways to improve the efficiency and adaptive reuse of the existing built environment.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Dodge*

Sarah Dodge

Senior Vice-President of Advocacy & Relationships

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader