



The Honorable Charles E.
Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510

September 12, 2022

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

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Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senate Minority Leader
McConnell:

As organizations dedicated to advancing the thoughtful historic preservation of the built environment, we write today in continued support of President Joe Biden's June 2021 nomination and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' March 2022 favorable recommendation for Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP): Sara C. Bronin.

As you know, the ACHP serves as the nation's foremost independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources. Both the architectural and planning communities hold deep respect for those who steward our historic built environment. With her experience and technical expertise, Ms. Bronin is excellently suited for this role.

As a licensed architect, attorney, Truman Scholar and Rhodes Scholar, Ms. Bronin is one of the leading national experts on historic preservation and property law, and she has written multiple publications on the subject. This includes two of the leading textbooks on historic preservation which Ms. Bronin coauthored, *Historic Preservation Law*, 2014 (1st ed.), 2018 (2d ed.) and *Historic Preservation Law in A Nutshell*, 2012 (1st ed.), 2021 (2d ed.).

Additionally, Ms. Bronin has a proven record of architectural expertise in the design of historic preservation. In 2014, Ms. Bronin won the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Connecticut Alice Washburn Award and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation Award for her

exceptional work rehabilitating a brownstone within the Elm Street National Register Historic District in Hartford, CT.

In her September 2021 testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Ms. Bronin pledged to leverage her extensive management experience and policy-making experience to strengthen the ACHP's mission at the state, local, and national levels while also supporting the 59 state and territorial historic preservation offices and the 574 federally recognized Indian tribes, including 212 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Ms. Bronin is nationally recognized as a thought leader in local planning. As a longtime member of APA, she has written and advised extensively on housing affordability and local code reform, including leading landmark inclusive community changes and zoning reforms in her role as Chair of the City of Hartford Planning & Zoning Commission (2014 – 2020). She also currently serves as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Her leadership has been consequential in increasing the diversity and supply of affordable housing and improving the affordable housing development process. Also, at the helm of Cornell University's Legal Constructs Lab, her interdisciplinary professorship in Law and City and Regional Planning has led to the launch of the National Zoning Atlas—the “Rosetta Stone of zoning: translating complex, technical, bureaucratic jargon into easy-to-understand maps and graphics”¹ accessible online as a single resource for non-experts.

The AIA and APA, alongside numerous champions among our aligned professions reflected below, respectfully urge floor consideration Sara C. Bronin's appointment as Chair of the ACHP without further delay. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Dodge at the AIA at sarahdodge@aia.org or Jason Jordan at APA at jjordan@planning.org.

Sincerely,

¹ [National Zoning Atlas launched to make America's patchwork of codes accessible and comprehensible | Cornell Chronicle](#)

The American Institute of Architects
American Planning Association
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Foundation
American Anthropological Association
American Cultural Resources Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
Arizona Downtown Alliance
Arizona Preservation Foundation
Arizona Vintage Sign Coalition
Coalition for American Heritage
Greater Portland Landmarks
International Masonry Institute
Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies
Latinos in Heritage Conservation
Main Street America
Maine Preservation
Michigan Historic Preservation Network
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance
National Alliance of Preservation Commissions
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
Preservation Action
Preservation Maryland
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Historical Archaeology
The United States National Committee of the International Council on
Monuments and Sites

CC: The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources