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Nicholas A. Redding
Executive Director

3600 Clipper Mill Road
Suite 248
Baltimore, Maryland 21211
o. 410-685-2886
f. 410-539-2182
presmd.org

September 1, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor Hogan,

On behalf of Preservation Maryland, our Board of Directors and over 8,000 members and supporters, we write today to request that you reconsider your decision to eliminate funding to our state's non-capital preservation grant program.

These Non-Capital or "Survey and Research" grants provide funding for research, survey, documentation, conservation, planning and educational activities involving historic, architectural, archaeological or cultural resources – the tangible remains of Maryland's past.

The program has received no funding since fiscal year 2009 which has created a crisis for communities and organizations tasked with protecting historic places. Once surveyed and documented, these places often become catalysts for economic development. From Oakland to Ocean City, our state's heritage is a powerful economic engine and proven job creator.

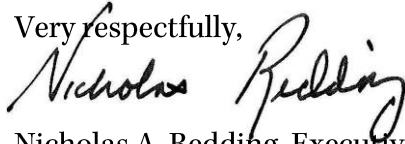
Regrettably, your request to the Maryland Board of Public Works would eliminate all funding for this critical program. The program's entire \$200,000 budget represents approximately .0004% of the total Maryland state budget.

Equally concerning is that the proposed cuts come just after dozens of organizations applied for this funding earlier this month. Requests for funding were due on August 14 – meaning these organizations and municipalities collectively spent *hundreds* of hours preparing applications for important projects that will never even be considered.

Given the serious conversations our state and your office have been recently engaged concerning Maryland's complex and dynamic history, we hope to work with your team to identify another way to achieve these cuts yet spare this critical program from total elimination.

We look forward to working with you and your administration and appreciate your continued support of our state's irreplaceable historic resources.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Redding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "N" and "R".

Nicholas A. Redding, Executive Director

cc:

Hon. Peter Franchot, Comptroller

Hon. Nancy K. Kopp, Treasurer

Wendi Peters, Sec. of Planning

David R. Brinkley, Sec. of Budget & Management

Elizabeth Hughes, Dir. of Maryland Historical Trust