



March 8, 2018

Dear Michigan Mayors and Administrators:

The Michigan Legislature is considering reinstatement of the Michigan's Historic Tax Credit, an invaluable tool for not only preserving our state's historic places, but also as a vital economic engine for communities large and small and in every corner of our great state, including yours.

We are asking that you join us in this effort by showing your support for **Senate Bill 469 and House Bill 5178**.

These bills will bring back one of the most valuable tools to level the financial playing field for historic preservation projects – and the only tool available for your constituents restoring owner-occupied homes. Historic preservation projects have been a key part of nearly every successful “revitalization” and “comeback” story in Michigan, and have helped make our state's cities, villages and towns more attractive, more economically viable and more emotionally engaging with both residents and visitors. This tax credit is a critical tool to save historic resources and the communities they are in.

The legislation will reinstate this program for historic commercial and residential buildings, putting them back on your tax rolls and saving their beauty for future generations, while also creating jobs, increasing foot traffic and activity in formerly empty districts, and re-energizing places that help to define Michigan.

Senate Bill 469 passed the Senate in December by an overwhelming majority of 36-2. We are looking to keep that momentum going now that House Bill 5178 has been referred to the Committee on Tax Policy.

**Here is why we need your help to get this crucial credit reinstated, for there is still much more to do in cities, towns and villages across Michigan.**

While the 1999-2011 HTC was in effect, it:

- Generated \$11 of economic activity for every \$1 in state investment.
- Benefited the state treasury from material and labor taxes paid BEFORE building projects were complete. Credits are awarded only after projects are complete and approved by the State.



- Supported local economies through purchases of materials and through job creation, as well as through nearby spin-off development that often follows restoration projects.
- Returned under-utilized buildings to service, growing local tax bases.
- Saw an additional \$251 million in federal funds to Michigan investments.
- Made projects possible when other financing could not, especially in smaller communities where financial incentives are not as readily available.
- Supported jobs for architects, skilled tradespeople, accountants, consultants, historians, construction workers and other professionals in your municipalities.

Please join us NOW by adding your name in support of this effort before March 30 by responding to Bao@mhpn.org. Please provide your full name, title, email address and municipality. Please also consider passing a resolution of support in your municipality ([sample resolution](#)).

Thank you for your consideration and support of preservation throughout the state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

Michigan Municipal League