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.Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms

STAFF  
Jacqui Schraad  
*Executive Director*

December 2, 2009

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul  
5929 Balcones Drive, Suite 305  
Austin, TX 78731

Re: Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act of 2009, H.R. 3670

Dear Congressman McCaul,

For over fifty years, the Heritage Society of Austin has been Austin's oldest and largest preservation non-profit group, with the stated mission of promoting the recognition and experience of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. Since our founding in 1953, we have made grants and loans of over \$2.8 million and our advocacy efforts and financial support have resulted in the preservation of more than 300 historic properties.

The Heritage Society of Austin is pleased to endorse the Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act of 2009, H.R. 3670, which seeks to amend the Internal Revenue Code to "expand the incentives for the rehabilitation of older buildings, including owner-occupied residences," by creating a tax credit program for homeowners of historic buildings.

For many years, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (HRTC) program has been available for the rehabilitation of commercial buildings in communities nationwide. This important tool has been critical to the revitalization of buildings and commercial corridors in small towns and cities throughout the nation. A tremendous economic stimulator, the HRTC since its inception has been directly responsible for \$45 billion in private investment and has led to the creation of 67,000 jobs.

What has been missing, however, is a similar program to benefit homeowners. As many communities struggle to rehabilitate and revitalize historic downtown areas, it has been readily apparent that commercial interests are only half the equation. By allowing a similar tax credit program for homeowners, we can provide a complete set of tools necessary to bring vitality and stability to neighborhoods, increase private investment, increase local tax bases, improve living conditions, and preserve our heritage – all at the same time.

The Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act of 2009 (H.R. 3670) establishes such a program by providing a homeowner tax credit in the amount of 20% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. This bill provides a robust incentive for economically challenged areas as well as an additional economic stimulus.

Twenty-five states offer state income tax credits to homeowners carrying out work on their historic properties. However, since Texas has no state income tax, such an incentive is not a possibility for Texans, making this Federal legislation even more important to its citizens. Providing this incentive could assist homeowners not just in Austin, but in large and small communities throughout Texas in their efforts to maintain the character of their communities, increase the energy efficiency of their homes, and contribute to their local economy.

We encourage your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mandy Dealey  
President  
Board of Directors

cc: Mayor Lee Leffingwell  
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez  
Council Member Chris Riley  
Council Member Randi Shade  
Council Member Laura Morrison  
Council Member Bill Spelman  
Council Member Sheryl Cole

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Mandy Dealey, Austin Hist. Center Assoc.  
Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms  
  
STAFF  
Jacqui Schraad  
*Executive Director*

December 2, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
3536 Bee Cave Road, Ste. 212  
Austin, TX 78746

Re: Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act of 2009, H.R. 3670

Dear Congressman Smith,

For over fifty years, the Heritage Society of Austin has been Austin's oldest and largest preservation non-profit group, with the stated mission of promoting the recognition and experience of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. Since our founding in 1953, we have made grants and loans of over \$2.8 million and our advocacy efforts and financial support have resulted in the preservation of more than 300 historic properties.

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What has been missing, however, is a similar program to benefit homeowners. As many communities struggle to rehabilitate and revitalize historic downtown areas, it has been readily apparent that commercial interests are only half the equation. By allowing a similar tax credit program for homeowners, we can provide a complete set of tools necessary to bring vitality and stability to neighborhoods, increase private investment, increase local tax bases, improve living conditions, and preserve our heritage – all at the same time.

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We encourage your support of this bill.

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President  
Board of Directors

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Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms  
  
STAFF  
Jacqui Schraad  
*Executive Director*

December 2, 2009

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett  
Federal Building  
300 E. 8th St., Rm 763  
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Historic Homeowners Revitalization Act of 2009, H.R. 3670

Dear Congressman Doggett,

For over fifty years, the Heritage Society of Austin has been Austin's oldest and largest preservation non-profit group, with the stated mission of promoting the recognition and experience of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. Since our founding in 1953, we have made grants and loans of over \$2.8 million and our advocacy efforts and financial support have resulted in the preservation of more than 300 historic properties.

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Given your past support of historic preservation efforts and your position as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee where this legislation was introduced, we encourage your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mandy Dealey  
President  
Board of Directors

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Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez  
Council Member Chris Riley  
Council Member Randi Shade  
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