



AIA
Cleveland

Center For Architecture and Design
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Dear Senator Portman and Senator Brown;

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its 520 plus members. As President of this Chapter, I need to share with you the deep concern of our community about the tax reform currently debated in the U.S. Senate. The issue of tax reform and the proposed removal of Historic tax credits has been covered extensively in our weekly e-newsletter that reaches over 3500 architects, interior designers, developers, contractors, and allied professionals alike. Overwhelmingly the response has been unfavorable to the removal of such Historic tax credits from the proposed tax reform legislation.

I urge you to work towards keeping and even enhancing both the current credit for the rehabilitation of pre-1936 structures and the credit for rehabilitation of properties on the National Register of Historic Places. They are essential to keeping investment in our communities at healthy levels while helping protect our states historic architecture – both extremely important for Ohio's future.

Historic tax credits are a valuable economic development tool for all states and often introduce funds into the federal budget exceeding the initial investment. The state of Ohio, specifically the city of Cleveland, needs this to continue.

These programs in Rustbelt regions and rural Ohio counties alike have transformed entire neighborhoods for the better. Eliminating Historic Tax Credits from the current tax code would be devastating for economic growth in areas of the state that this tax reform legislation targets.

I ask that you please be a good steward of your constituents' interest in Historic tax credits. The importance of this issue should not be underestimated or overlooked and it is my hope that you will see the value in preserving such tax credits that have helped communities rebuild, redevelop, and flourish. AIA Cleveland would like to offer help or support to you and your staff in any way with regards to this matter in order to help protect these vital resources.

Sincerely,

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AIA CLEVELAND MISSION STATEMENT

As a national organization, the American Institute of Architects is the voice of the architectural profession and a resource to its members in service to society. As the local chapter, AIA Cleveland is a professional association that promotes the value of architecture and design, fosters collegiality, advocates for local members, educates, and supports architects as leaders in the community.