

MADISON TRUST



for Historic Preservation

State Historic Tax Credit Threatened! Act Now!

The following was drafted by Dawn McCarthy of Milwaukee Preservation Alliance.
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In February, the governor [proposed capping the state Historic Tax Credit program](#) used to restore and maintain historic properties. Many of us have been speaking to our elected state representatives but now is the time for everyone to act. The Joint Finance Committee will likely be reviewing the measure sometime this month.

A group of lobbyists and interested parties has organized to develop a common message to be used when talking to legislators: remove the HTC from the budget. Below you will find a form email and list of members of the Joint Finance Committee and Legislative Leadership to contact as well as a link to find contact information for your own legislators. The facts and figures of the 2016 Baker Tilly [report](#) are even more persuasive than the 2014 report. The [summary](#) of the report highlights the most impressive numbers.

Please take a few minutes over the next week to reach out to a few legislators and share with others. If you would like your organization added to a list of HTC supporters please let me know.

E-mail draft to send to legislators.

Note: Please make sure you link to the study [summary](#) in your e-mail.

Dear Representative (Last name),
Dear Senator (Last name),

Wisconsin has an outstanding economic development tool that between 2014 and 2016 has resulted in:

- \$683 million in direct economic output;
- \$92.4 million in additional state taxes;
- 10,950 new jobs, including 9,882 construction jobs; and
- 633 percent increase in cumulative property tax.

I'm referring to the state's Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program (HTC), which is a proven low-risk/high-return investment tool that is having a significant positive impact on communities throughout the state.

The numbers above can be found in the [summary](#) of a new report by Baker Tilly outlining the benefits of historic projects completed from 2014-16 that were stimulated by the HTC.

This is truly a statewide program in which 67 percent of projects in 2016 were in communities with a population less than 100,000, attracting \$167.4 million of total investment to those communities.

Additionally, it's a low-risk program to the state, because the tax credits cannot be used until a project is complete. If the project is not completed, then the tax credits cannot be claimed. The bottom line is that well before any credit is claimed, the state is seeing a return on its investment, and within 4 years of a project's completion, the credit is fully repaid.

As you may know, the governor's 2017-19 budget bill proposes to make several changes to the program that would significantly reduce its positive economic impact throughout the state. Based on the proven low-risk, high ROI of the program, HTC supporters are respectfully asking the legislature to delete these provisions and allow the program to continue its positive impact of generating economic investment, job creation, and tax base growth in Wisconsin communities.

The program has been especially helpful in (insert your community) where it helped in the redevelopment of the (insert project). Give a little background on the project.

Please review the [summary](#) and let me know if you have any questions. The full Baker Tilly report can be reviewed by visiting: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/tax-credits>

Thank you for your interest in this matter and for your service to the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Name
Address

Joint Finance Committee Members:

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- Senator Alberta Darling (Co-Chair)
R-River Hills Sen.Darling@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative John Nygren (Co-Chair)
R- Marinette Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative Dale Kooyenga (Vice-Chair)
R-Brookfield Rep.Kooyenga@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Senator Luther Olsen (Vice-Chair)
R-Ripon Sen.Olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Senator Shelia Harsdorf
R-River Falls Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Senator Howard Marklein
R-Spring Green Sen.Marklein@legis.wi.gov
- Senator Tom Tiffany
R-Hazelhurst Sen.Tiffany@legis.wi.gov
- Senator Leah Vukmir
R-Brookfield Sen.Vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov

- Senator Lena Taylor
R-Milwaukee Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Senator John Erpenbach
R-Middleton Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative Amy Loudenberg
R-Clinton Rep.Loudenberg@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative Mary Felzkowski
R-Irma Rep.Felzkowski@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative Mark Born
R-Beaver Dam Rep.Born@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative Mike Rohrkaste
R-Neenah Rep.Rohrkaste@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative Gordon Hintz
D-Oshkosh Rep.Hintz@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Representative Katrina Shankland
D-Stevens Point Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov

Legislative Leadership:

- Senate Majority Leader - Senator Scott Fitzgerald
R-Juneau Sen.Fitzgerald@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Senate President – Senator Roger Roth
R-Appleton Sen.Roth@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Assembly Speaker – Rep. Robin Vos
R-Rochester Rep.Vos@legis.wisconsin.gov
- Assembly Majority Leader – Rep. Jim Steineke
R-Kaukauna Rep.Steineke@legis.wisconsin.gov

Contact information on other legislators can be found using the following web page: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/> - see the “Find my legislator” section in the upper right corner.

While it is best to contact legislators who represent your area, we want to make sure we have a good number of contacts going into the Finance Committee members.

Thanks for your help with our grassroots efforts to maintain this important program.