Dear (Name):

I respectfully request that you actively work to preserve our state's highly successful historic preservation tax credit program. The $10 million annual cap and a tax credit repayment provision included in the governor's 2015-2017 state budget proposal would remove the competitive edge that Wisconsin legislators worked to enact a little more than a year ago.

We appreciate the legislature's efforts to develop appropriate guidelines for this program that balance budgetary responsibilities while ensuring that this program remains a strong incentive to undertake historic rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of historic buildings is more difficult and costly than new construction, yet produces more jobs because it is more labor intensive.

[If you have used the tax credits or have experience with their impact in your community, please briefly describe how the credits have been a benefit.]

A recent report by the accounting firm Baker Tilly estimates that:

\* 40.3 percent of Wisconsin’s investment is directly recouped during the construction phase and before the credit is awarded.

\* Wisconsin will directly recoup all of its investment in seven (7) years.

The state historic tax credit leverages significant private and federal investment in Wisconsin’s older commercial districts.  The Wisconsin Historical Society estimates that 60% of the projects approved for the state’s historic rehabilitation tax credit had been previously vacant – some as much as 10, 20 and even 30 years.

The recent study shows that the program today is creating local jobs, putting vacant buildings back on the tax roll, spurring economic development, and generating significant amounts of state and local tax revenue while preserving historic Wisconsin buildings.

Please work to preserve the current effective historic tax credit program. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to speak briefly in person or by phone with you about the credits. Thank you for your consideration and assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Name, address, title, organization, phone number