The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Instituted July 4, 1876 ✦ Organized April 30, 1889

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our Country.

November 24, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Jaime Loichinger
Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001
Via Email:
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RE: Strong Opposition to Section 106 Provisions in Senate-Amended H.R. 2347 (S. 5653) and Proposed Regulatory Reductions to the National Historic Preservation Act

Dear Mr. Speaker, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, and Director Loichinger:

On behalf of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR), I am writing to express our opposition to the Section 106 provisions in the Senate-passed permitting reform package (**H.R. 2347**, incorporating the text of

S. 5653, the *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026*), as well as the parallel regulatory revisions proposed by the Administration regarding the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). These efforts to curtail, bypass, or weaken the Section 106 review process pose a direct and irreversible threat to our nation's foundational history.

The NSSAR is a patriotic, historical, and educational non-profit organization with nearly 40,000 members dedicated to perpetuating the memory of those who achieved American independence. A core component of our mission is preserving Revolutionary War battlefields, sacred burial sites, and associated cultural resources. For six decades, Section 106 has served as the frontline defense for these irreplaceable landscapes, ensuring that federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects do not needlessly erase the physical markers of our war for independence.
Section 106 does not block progress; rather, it mandates a critical pause for consultation, balance, and stewardship. Weakening these statutory mechanisms will directly result in the destruction of significant Revolutionary War resources. The vital necessity of an uncompromised Section 106 process is clearly demonstrated by historical preservation successes across the country:

- **Saratoga Battlefield, New York (1968):** In an early and landmark application of the NHPA, the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation proposed constructing a massive nuclear power plant on the eastern shore of the Hudson River, which required federal regulatory permitting. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) intervened, establishing the critical precedent that visual encroachment on a battlefield's viewshed constitutes an "adverse effect." This review sparked a public and political firestorm that forced the utility to abandon the project, preserving the viewshed of the "Turning Point of the American Revolution."

- **Fish Dam Ford Battlefield, South Carolina (2005):** When South Carolina's Department of Transportation planned a federally funded bridge replacement for Route 72 across the Broad River, the mandatory Section 106 archaeological survey uncovered an entirely intact 1780 combat zone directly in the path of construction. Because the Section 106 consultation process was legally triggered, stakeholders were able to negotiate a shift in the bridge's location. Furthermore, mitigation efforts led to the purchase of 143 acres of the battlefield, which is permanently protected today as the Fish Dam Ford Heritage Preserve.

- **Savannah Harbor Fleet Artifacts, Georgia / South Carolina (2021):** During deep-river dredging operations for the federally funded Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, heavy machinery unexpectedly struck historic wreckage. Section 106 protocols for "unanticipated discoveries" were immediately invoked. Dredging was paused and carefully managed around the site, allowing marine archaeologists to safely recover and conserve 19 heavily encrusted Revolutionary War-era naval cannons and associated munitions. These rescued artifacts were successfully put on public display at the Savannah History Museum in July 2026.

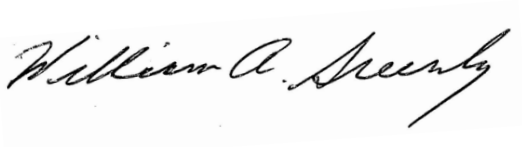
Without the mandates of Section 106, the nuclear towers at Saratoga would dominate the landscape, the combat fields of Fish Dam Ford would be paved over, and the naval artillery of Savannah would have been ground to dust by dredging teeth.

The proposed legislative and regulatory rollbacks outlined in H.R. 2347 / S. 5653 and the ACHP's draft revisions would severely restrict review timelines, sideline state and local consulting parties, and create sweeping exemptions for infrastructure projects. These changes strip the American public—and lineage societies like the SAR—of our voice in protecting our shared heritage.

As the House of Representatives considers the Senate-amended H.R. 2347, we urge you to reject these damaging Section 106 provisions and urge the Administration to withdraw any administrative rules that seek to diminish the scope or enforcement of the NHPA. Especially as our nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, we must not sacrifice our foundational past on the altar of short-term regulatory convenience.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and attention to this urgent matter of historic preservation.

Sincerely,



W. Allen Greenly
122nd President General
National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution