



To protect and preserve the irreplaceable historic resources
of Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear Region

July 21, 2021

Senator Thom Tillis
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

The Historic Wilmington Foundation respectfully requests that Senator Tillis support S.2266, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit. This legislation is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senator Cardin (D-MD), Senator Cassidy (R-LA), Senator Cantwell (D-WA), and Senator Collins (R-ME). S.2266 will enhance the federal historic preservation tax credit incentives while also responding to the current reality of development during the COVID-19 pandemic.

North Carolina is one of thirty-nine states that offers an additional state piggyback historic tax credit. Since 1976, over 4,000 historic structures in North Carolina have been rehabilitated using federal and state historic preservation tax credits. These projects represent over \$3.25 billion dollars of private investment in historic properties. During fiscal year 2019, North Carolina ranked fourth in the nation in total private investment for completed historic preservation tax credit projects, totaling \$381.2 million dollars.

In North Carolina's 7th Congressional District, 287 projects (totaling over \$75 million in private investment) have been completed since 1976, using both the federal and state historic preservation tax credits. Within the Historic Wilmington Foundation's mission area, 166 projects (totaling over \$42 million dollars in private investment) have been completed in New Hanover County using the federal tax credits. Additionally, 2 projects (totaling \$159,000 in private investment) have been completed in Brunswick County, and 1 project (totaling \$97,000 in private investment) has been completed in Pender County using the federal tax credits.

The positive effects of the federal historic preservation tax credits are widespread across North Carolina's 7th Congressional District. In Wilmington, rehabilitated buildings using the federal historic preservation tax credits include the 1915 Knights of Pythias Castle, now used as Monteith Construction's offices; the 1897 Solomon Building, recently opened as Seabird Restaurant; and the 1903 Richter Building, now a film production company. S.2266 will further incentivize private investment in our region's historic structures while creating jobs, revitalizing communities, and instilling community pride in North Carolina's history. As President Reagan stated in 1984, "Our historic tax credits have made the preservation of older buildings not only a matter of respect for beauty and history, but of course for economic good sense." The Historic Wilmington Foundation urges Senator Tillis to support S.2266.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis John Gilbert".

Travis John Gilbert, Executive Director, Historic Wilmington Foundation
CC: Historic Wilmington Foundation Board of Directors