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RE: Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Project Support Letters

Greetings:

There have been internal Preservation Massachusetts policy changes effective in 2023 regarding support letters required for state historic tax credit applications. I would like to first, thank you for investing in the Commonwealth's historic buildings, and second, let you know what we do to assist in your project in receiving tax credits.

Preservation Massachusetts, Inc. (PM) is the statewide non-profit historic preservation advocacy and education organization that works with individuals, organizations, and businesses to revitalize communities, historic buildings, and landscapes through preservation.

In 2003, PM was instrumental in drafting, lobbying for, and passing the Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit ("MHRTC") legislation. Since 2004, we have led legislative efforts to sustain and grow this important program. The work of PM's legislative agents to increase the annual credit cap have taken it from \$10 million to now \$55 million and have extended the program sunset date until 2027.

As part of the MHRTC application process, the Massachusetts Historical Commission requires a support letter from PM for every application, during each of the three funding rounds per year. This requires PM staff to conduct a project review in order to prepare and submit each support letter, taking time and resources to provide a correct and thorough letter. Prior to issuing these letters, you or your consultant must complete a "New Letter Request Form" or, for repeat requests, a "Reapplication Request Form," both of which can be found on PM's website ([www.preservationmass.org](http://www.preservationmass.org)) under "Advocacy" and then "Historic Tax Credits".

For nearly 20 years, PM has worked to protect and enhance the MHRTC and provided support letters. However, we can no longer bear the staff costs for project reviews and preparing support letters. Beginning with the August 2023 application round, we are implementing a cost-reimbursement structure for all requested support letters. The cost reimbursement for a new project letter is \$500, and for reapplying projects is \$250 per application round.

As a 501(c)3 non-profit, PM's work is funded entirely by memberships, fundraising, and grants. We receive no state or federal funding for any of our programs or services. We need to ensure the sustainability of our organization and the MHRTC program so it can continue to offer critical funds to preservation projects across Massachusetts.

We thank you for your attention to our new policy and look forward to continuing to working with you.

Sincerely,