

MIDWEST OFFICE



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

July 22, 2005

Barack Obama, United States Senator
Chicago Office
John C. Kluczynski Federal Office Building
230 South Dearborn
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Senate Action on the Water Resources Development Act

Dear Senator Obama:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities. Its Washington, DC headquarters staff, six regional offices and 26 historic sites work with the Trust's 270,000 members and thousands of local community groups in all 50 states.

The Midwest Office of the National Trust has been working very closely with Chicago Alderman Leslie Hairston, U. S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and many, many citizens in the Hyde Park community to promote an appropriate preservation plan for the limestone steps at Promontory Point. The House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). This bill included language from Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., specifying that federal funding earmarked for use on the rehabilitation of Promontory Point will be spent in a manner ensuring the preservation of this architecturally and culturally significant site that is so important to the residents of Chicago's South Side and the Hyde Park neighborhood.

We applaud Rep. Jackson for his efforts in the House on behalf of the local citizens and members of the Promontory Point Community Task Force. The National Trust is asking for your support in continuing the work of Rep. Jackson by sponsoring similar language in the Senate version of the WRDA that will authorize the use of federal funds for the repair and rehabilitation of Promontory Point *only if the original design and materials of the limestone steps is preserved*. Such a measure would be in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement executed in 1993 requiring that plans for the shoreline project must minimize impacts to any historic properties, such as the Promontory Point revetments.

Protecting the Irreplaceable

53 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD • SUITE 350 • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604
312.939.5547 • FAX: 312.939.5651 • WWW.NATIONALTRUST.ORG

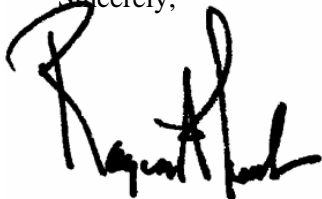
Serving: IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH & WI

Senator Barack Obama
July 22, 2005
Page 2

We hope that we can count on your leadership in the Senate for the preservation of Promontory Point in the upcoming Water Resources Development Act bill. Your support represents a critical next step in the preservation of this incredible Chicago landmark for the enjoyment of the citizens of Chicago for generations to come. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way that we can be of assistance to you in these efforts.

We would like the opportunity to discuss this issue with you in greater detail, and would make ourselves available for a meeting at your convenience. I can be reached at my office in the Monadnock Building at 312.929.5547 x228, and I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Royce A. Yeater". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Royce A. Yeater, AIA
Midwest Director

Cc: Jesse Jackson, Jr., United States House of Representatives
Alderman Leslie Hairston, City of Chicago
Anne Haaker, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
David Bahlman, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois
Jack Spicer, Hyde Park Historical Society
Patrick Lally, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Stacey Mahaney, National Trust for Historic Preservation