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September 18, 2008

Governor David A. Paterson  
Executive Chamber  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

As Director of the National Trust Community Investment Corporation, the for-profit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I thank you for the opportunity to address the importance of expanding the New York state historic rehabilitation tax credit program. I am writing to request you to sign the bill to expand the New York state Historic Tax Credit, which was recently passed in the New York State Assembly and Senate. This bill proposes to make the existing New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit a more effective tool for community renewal and economic redevelopment (S.5425/A.30000).

The program changes made by this legislation would increase the level of incentive and flexibility needed by developers and building owners to more aggressively pursue investment in and rehabilitation of historic buildings. Because this legislation would direct increased private investment to downtowns, "Main Streets" and distressed residential neighborhoods across New York State, it would advance and reinforce your Administration's agenda on a wide range of issues, from economic development to affordable housing, smart growth, and brownfields renewal.

The current New York State rehabilitation tax credit incentive programs are far too limited to encourage significant program use and as a result, redevelopment opportunities in municipalities throughout the state remain un-pursued. This bill provides a higher level of incentive for the commercial rehabilitation program that will attract interest and investment to New York's urban cores, as well as allow increased investment from out-of-state interests by allowing for the reallocation of these tax credits within partnerships. The expanded residential rehabilitation tax credit program will make the credit available to historic housing in a wider range of distressed census tracts.

Other states have seen extraordinary economic redevelopment successes through implementation of similar programs. Rhode Island has hailed their rehabilitation tax credit program as the most effective economic redevelopment program in state history.

NTCIC seeks and will use an expanded New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit program in order to begin to deliver similar results in New York State. In recognition of this program's

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**National Trust Community Investment Corporation**

1785 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036  
202.588.6000 • FAX: 202.588.6436 • WWW.NTCICFUNDS.COM

extraordinary potential to drive long-term, sustained investment in the economic revitalization and restoration of business districts and residential neighborhoods throughout New York, we urge you to sign this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Leith-Tetrault". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Leith-Tetrault  
President  
National Trust Community Investment Corporation