



Memorandum of Support

Historic Business Preservation Registry

A.8873A (O'Donnell)

S.7274B (Serrano)

The Preservation League of New York State is New York State's statewide historic preservation nonprofit. We invest in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. **We write in support of bills A.8873A and S.7274B to establish an historic business preservation registry to serve as an educational and promotional tool to recognize historic community-serving businesses as valuable cultural assets.**

New York State is home to numerous unique long-running commercial establishments such as retailers, restaurants, taverns and other service providers that enhance the character of our diverse communities and serve as a driver for heritage tourism. Creation of a historic business preservation registry is one way to recognize these establishments and encourage further attention and investment in New York State.

Similar programs have been successfully employed in other regions of the country such as the *Legacy Business Registry* in San Francisco, the *Historic Business Register* in Indiana and the *Texas Treasure Business Award Program*. Like these programs, the proposed New York *Historic Business Preservation Registry* will honor historic community-serving businesses that serve as examples of the rich history of communities in our state. The registry will encourage the viability and success of historic businesses through its education and promotional efforts.

We urge the NYS Legislature to adopt A.8873A and S.7274B to create the *Historic Business Preservation Registry* in New York and applaud Assemblymember O'Donnell and Senator Serrano for their leadership in this effort.

The organizations below join the Preservation League in support of this legislation:

Adirondack Architectural Heritage | **Keeseville, NY**

Historic Albany Foundation | **Albany, NY**

Historic Ithaca | **Ithaca, NY**

Landmark Society of Western New York | **Rochester, NY**

Municipal Art Society of New York | **NY, NY**

New York Landmarks Conservancy | **NY, NY**

Otsego 2000 | **Cooperstown, NY**

Preservation Buffalo Niagara | **Buffalo, NY**

The Campaign for Greater Buffalo History, Architecture & Culture | **Buffalo, NY**