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Memorandum of Support A.3670 (Woerner) and S.4439 (Kennedy)

The Preservation League of New York State is New York State's statewide historic preservation nonprofit. We lead advocacy, economic development and education programs across the state. We write in support of Bill A.3670 (Woerner) and S.4439 (Kennedy) relating to improving access to the NYS Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit for small projects. We urge the Assembly and Senate to include this bill in their budget bills this March. These improvements will help small business and Main Street building owners rehabilitate their historic buildings, while ensuring that the NYS Historic Tax Credit serves as an incentive throughout our upstate urban centers.

As New York State's only statewide historic preservation nonprofit organization, the Preservation League of New York State invests 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 lead advocacy, economic development and education programs across the state and partner with local preservation organizations throughout New York.

The NYS Historic Tax Credit economic stimulus improvement outlined in A.3670 and S.4439 will increase the NYS Historic Tax Credit from 20% to 30% for small projects under \$2.5 million. This improvement would have an outyear fiscal impact to FY 2023/24 at the earliest, with an estimated annual revenue loss of \$2.7 million, while bringing job creation, increased rehabilitation, and additional community investment to our communities that need it most.

Last year in NYS a job was created for every \$12,000 of Historic Tax Credit investment, or \$60,450 of rehabilitation. Every \$0.20 spent on the Historic Tax Credit created \$1.40 in earned income. In Federal Fiscal Year 2019, the Historic Tax Credit created over 8,600 jobs, with \$520 million of rehabilitation investment generating over \$151 million in federal, state, and local tax revenue. As part of economic recovery, an increase in our NYS Historic Tax Credit from 20% to 30% of qualified rehabilitation costs for projects under \$2.5 million will create community revitalization, sustainable economic growth, and the protection of historic buildings and landscapes.

The Preservation League strongly supports the two bills and urges the NYS Legislature to include them in the FY 2022 NYS budget so that our state can continue to expand its economic development in our historic cities, villages and rural communities.