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Memorandum of Support S. 1558 (Serrano, Savino)

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 S. 1558 relating to establishing a statewide resident curator program for buildings owned by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks).**

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 Preservation League has long supported the creation of a statewide resident curator program for Parks-owned buildings that no longer support the agency's mission and goals within that park. These buildings, while no longer supporting a viable use for Parks, still contribute to the history and story of our state and their location within a State Park.

Multiple states have established resident curator programs with successful reinvestment and rehabilitation of important publicly-owned structures. In Maryland, almost 50 historic state-owned properties have been restored or are under restoration as part of their Resident Curatorship Program. A public/private partnership as proposed by Senators Serrano and Savino will encourage and incentivize private funds and sweat equity into the rehabilitation and preservation under Parks' jurisdiction, saving New York State funds and preserving New York State history.

We are currently working closely with Parks to preserve Parrott Hall, a Parks-owned building significant to our state's agricultural history. A resident curator program would have helped mitigate this building's significant deterioration, while celebrating the creation of the NYS Agricultural Experiment Station. We urge the NYS Legislature to adopt S. 1558 and applaud Senator Serrano and Senator Savino for their leadership in this effort.