



March 28, 2019

Senator Mike McGuire  
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
Room 5061, State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 451 (Atkins), Historic Buildings Rehabilitation Tax Credit**

**POSITION: Support**

Dear Senator McGuire,

Pasadena Heritage respectfully urges you to sign SB 451 (Speaker Toni Atkins), the "Historic Buildings Rehabilitation Tax Credit."

As California's second-largest historic preservation non-profit with over 1,200 household members, Pasadena Heritage has worked for over 41 years in the community to revitalize the distinctive character of our historic neighborhoods and commercial districts. As you may know, Pasadena today is a highly desirable place to live and also a significant tourism destination, and we believe that our historic architecture is a large part of the city's appeal. The Old Pasadena Historic District is a textbook example of how preservation can revitalize a declining commercial district, encourage tourism, and stimulate private investment in the rehabilitation of iconic places. Pasadena Heritage saved Old Pasadena from the wrecking ball more than three decades ago, and it has since become a prime economic generator and a revitalization model for other communities.

The federal historic preservation tax credit has provided critical incentives to encourage historic preservation and the re-use of many historic structures in Old Pasadena and elsewhere in our city. The new California state historic preservation tax credit promises to trigger millions more dollars in private investment. Economic studies of states with historic tax credit programs have proven that tax-credit projects are an essential part of the local economy and that such projects generate more revenue than the cost of the tax credit. The program can revitalize neighborhoods, decrease vacancies, preserve historic buildings, and strengthen the sense of place that draws people, as with our Old Pasadena Historic District.

In recognition of this great potential, Pasadena Heritage now urges you to sign SB 451 into law.

Sincerely,

Susan N. Mossman  
Executive Director

Andrew Salimian  
Preservation Director

cc: Members of the Senate Governance and Finance Committee  
Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins