



Office of Historic Preservation

23 January, 2020

The Honorable Steve Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

The City of Mesa writes in support of the continuation of historic conservation easements as a tool to encourage the protection of Arizona's and the nation's irreplaceable historic and cultural resources.

As you are aware, the conservation easement acts as a means for economic development and historic preservation to work hand-in-hand: once placed on a designated historic property, the easement protects it from demolition in perpetuity. In return for donating partial control over the property's changes to a federally-recognized 501(c)(3) organization, the federal government has long recognized the right of the property owner to receive a tax deduction on the value of development rights lost due to the placement of the easement.

In the past, historic property owners have been encouraged to utilize such easements to lessen complexity in the appraisal process and in filing taxes with the Internal Revenue Service. We request your support in the continuation of these measures, as well as the ongoing implementation of uniform and enforceable appraisal practices.

Thank you for your support for the preservation of our historic and cultural heritage, in Arizona and across the county.

Sincerely,

Mesa Historic Preservation Committee

cc: The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, U.S. Senator, Arizona
The Honorable Martha McSally, U.S. Senator, Arizona
The Honorable David Kautter, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy
The Honorable Charles Rettig, IRS Commissioner