Insert Date Here

[Insert MP’s Name Here]

Insert MP’s Position/Riding

Address

City, Province, Postal Code

Email address

**Subject: Request to Meet - Key Implications for [Insert your riding here] of ENVI Report #10, *Preserving Canada’s Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow***

Dear [Insert MP’s name here]:

I, [Insert your name] on behalf of [Insert name of your organization] would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) report *Preserving Canada’s Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow*. This report is being met with great interest from heritage NGOs, volunteers, charities, professionals, provincial/territorial and municipal policymakers, and property owners who invest in or care for heritage places across Canada. Implementing the recommendations of this report would help save places such as [insert endangered place in your riding] which are threatened in our community.

In the course of the study, the Committee heard that historic places are more than just touchstones of history and identity: they are instrumental in building the economy of tomorrow, creating skilled, green jobs for young people, and growing the middle class. Further, as member of a government that has undertaken substantial initiatives on the environment and climate change, you will know that the renewal and re-use of buildings capitalizes on materials and energy already invested, reduces construction and demolition waste, and avoids the carbon and other environmental impacts associated with new development.

*Preserving Canada’s Heritage* contains a comprehensive set of 17 recommendations for action which would be transformative for Canada’s historic places, their owners and stewards, and the people who care about them – whether they are in the hands of governments or Band Councils, private sector owners, not-profit organizations or charities. The Report also contains many laudable recommendations to get the federal house in order and to show national leadership through exemplary handling of the federal government’s own heritage property portfolio.

At the grassroots level, myself and more than 1,000 Canadians have already endorsed the following statement of priorities for federal action on historic places, and more continue to sign on:

*\* I request that priority be given to measures that would have the most tangible and immediate positive impact for the greatest number of rural and urban places in Canada, and a proven spin-off effect for the environment and our economy:*

1. ***Measures that would encourage private sector investment in the revitalization of historic places that matter in our communities; and***
2. ***Measures that help fund the efforts of Indigenous peoples, charities and not-for-profits to save and renew places of significance.***

***Proven measures include grants and contributions, tax-based incentives, and "heritage first" leasing and investment policies.***

Accordingly, we urge you to take action on the corresponding recommendations found in *Preserving Canada’s Heritage:*

* Recommendation 11 – Establishing a tax credit for the restoration and preservation of buildings listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places;
* Recommendation 10 – Funding for the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places to a minimum of $10 million per year;
* Recommendations 15 & 17 – Supporting an Indigenous-led initiative to protect and preserve places important to them, including the legacy of residential schools; and
* Recommendation 8 – Requiring federal departments/agencies to give preference to existing heritage buildings when considering leasing or purchasing space.

We also point out that Recommendation 11, calling for income tax measures for historic places, represents an opportunity to incentivize investment in historic places without a negative impact on the Government’s financial framework. As reported in the ENVI study, the US Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program returns between $1.20 and $1.25 to the federal government for every dollar of tax credit invested. Such measures have longstanding widespread support in Canada: from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; 58 Canadian municipalities who passed resolutions or expressed support for federal income tax measures for historic places; and hundreds of individuals who have written letters and met with their MPs.

Recommendation 11 is consistent with the Liberal Party of Canada’s willingness to consider financial incentives for historic places, expressed in an October 2015 pre-election message to the heritage sector. Responding to written questions from the National Trust for Canada, Liberal Party president Anna Gainey wrote: *“A Liberal government will work in collaboration with the heritage sector and other stakeholders to examine measures that promote the preservation and rehabilitation of Canada’s heritage buildings.  We are open to measures that use the tax system that stimulate private investments in heritage buildings.”*

Support for federal tax measures for Canada’s historic places was echoed in ENVI’s Report #9 – Bill C-323 – An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (rehabilitation of historic property): “The Committee is supportive of the principle of Bill C-323 and believes that financial incentives, including tax credits, which encourage investment in the rehabilitation of historic properties and heritage places is necessary […]”

I would like to meet with you to discuss what you can do to implement these recommendations **that will encourage investment in the revitalization of historic places (particularly tax-based incentives and grants/contributions), and fund the efforts of Indigenous peoples, charities, and not-for-profits to save and regenerate places of significance in this riding.**

**Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.**

Yours sincerely,

Your Name

Your Title

Your Organization