

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Charles F. Sams III
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Town of Rockingham's application to the National Park Service's Semiquincentennial Grant Program (CFDA 15.904) for restoration of the Rockingham Meeting House. We are pleased to bring this application to your attention.

Built in 1787, the Rockingham Meeting House is one of just 18 National Historic Landmarks in Vermont and is also on the National Register of Historic Places. From 1792 to 1869, Rockingham residents gathered at the meeting house on Town Meeting Day and local churches held services in the building. After 1870, the building gradually fell into disuse until the town restored it in 1906. The first Old Home Day and Pilgrimage to the Meeting House was held in 1907, and the pilgrimage has been held annually each year since.

Both the Town of Rockingham and the community at large have a deep commitment to the preserving this landmark. In 1911, volunteers formed the Old Rockingham Meeting House Association dedicated to the preservation of the building and its history. The organization has been continuously active in supporting that mission to this day and has been an integral part of restoration efforts.

Contemporary restoration work began in 2022 with a Historic Structure Report following National Park Service Bulletin 43 guidelines. That report recommended a three-phase restoration project. Phase 1, which includes work on the foundation, flooring, and windows, will begin this fall and is partially funded with a Congressionally Directed Spending request through the Save America's Treasures program. The Semiquincentennial grant would be used to partially fund the second and third phases of the restoration, including preservation of the interior woodwork and box pews, and create ADA compliant accessibility.

Thank you for giving this application the careful consideration it deserves. If we can provide further evidence of our support for this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
United States Senator



BECCA BALINT
United States Representative