

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2012

Contact: Mindy Crawford
Executive Director, Preservation PA
717-234-2310, ext. 14 (office)
717-880-6275 (cell)
mcrawford@preservationpa.org

Caroline E. Boyce, CAE
Executive Vice President
AIA Pennsylvania
717-421-2657 (cell)
cboyce@aiapa.org

Pennsylvania Becomes the 30th State to Pass Historic Tax Credit
Governor Signs Bill Today to Create New Economic Development Program

Harrisburg, PA — On **Tuesday, July 2**, Pennsylvania became the **30th state** in the country to have a state historic tax credit when **Governor Corbett** signed amendments to the Tax Reform Code into law (Act 85) earlier today, creating the Historic Preservation Incentive Act. This tax credit will be a companion to the very successful federal tax credit program.

Preservation Pennsylvania, AIA Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership want to thank the General Assembly for the establishment of this program that will offer a 25% state tax credit for the rehabilitation of qualified income-producing buildings that are also using the federal tax credit. By leveraging the existing 20% federal tax credit with an additional 25% state credit, the program will help lure investment into Pennsylvania. Data show that states with state credits have an advantage over states that do not have tax credits in attracting investment in historic rehabilitation.

“We are thrilled with the passage of this legislation,” said Mindy Crawford, Executive Director of Preservation Pennsylvania. “This program is not just about historic preservation – it is about local jobs, economic development, neighborhood revitalization and vibrant strong communities.

Pennsylvania has historically been one of the strongest users of the federal tax credit and the creation of a state tax credit will result in more projects that return abandoned buildings to useful life and place them back on the tax rolls.”

“While this is a modest program to start with at \$3 million per year, we will demonstrate its effectiveness as an economic development tool. Putting people back to work in the design and construction industry is critical to the Commonwealth’s economic recovery,” said Caroline Boyce,

Executive Vice President of AIA Pennsylvania. The Historic Tax Credit program will not only put people to work, it is estimated that for every dollar invested by the program, \$1.17 in public revenues will be returned to the State.

“The Historic Preservation Incentive Act will provide a needed incentive to assist in the redevelopment of projects that are currently considered unfeasible given their significant costs to bring these structures up to modern day standards,” added Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership. “We applaud the General Assembly and Governor Corbett for approval of this bill that will help to encourage economic development in Downtown Pittsburgh, cities and towns throughout the State.”

Credit for moving this effort forward goes to Senator Lloyd Smucker, R-Lancaster who introduced the legislation and continued championing for it throughout budget negotiations. Representative Robert Freeman, D-Northampton, kept advocating for this legislation in the House. Efforts to establish this credit in Pennsylvania began in 1996 under the leadership of former state Representative, Tom Tangretti, D-Westmoreland who worked for the passage of this program until his retirement in 2008.

Many thanks to the Chambers of Commerce, local economic development and preservation groups and individuals who worked to advocate for the passage of this program during the last 16 years.

-###-