



For Immediate Release  
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## **Pennsylvania Works! Coalition releases studies showing job creation, other economic benefits from historic preservation funding;**

*Leaders decry State Senate's failure to act on Historic Preservation Tax Incentive bill*

Harrisburg, PA (May 25, 2010) – Pennsylvania Works!, along with Preservation Pennsylvania (PPA), State Senator David Argall (R-Schuylkill), and State Representative Robert Freeman (D-Northampton), released two studies on the impact of historic preservation investments on the economy and jobs creation. The studies (available at [www.pennsylvaniaworks.org](http://www.pennsylvaniaworks.org)), done independently by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia and the Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh, showed that private and public investments in historic preservation in the state's two largest cities totaled almost **\$1.2 billion over five years**. The press conference's participants decried the Pennsylvania State Senate's failure to allow the Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Act to be voted on, despite the increased jobs and investment the bill would bring.

"Historic preservation not only helps to protect the historic places that are important to its citizens, it also puts people to work," said Mindy Crawford, executive director of Preservation Pennsylvania. "The use of federal historic tax credits throughout Pennsylvania has placed buildings back on the tax rolls, created new housing units, and generated high skilled, good paying jobs that stay in the communities. As thirty-one other states have already learned, a state incentive program coupled with the federal program makes good economic sense and it will do the same in Pennsylvania."

"Both studies point to the same conclusion: by restoring and reusing the historic structures in our communities, the outcome is job creation and long-term economic growth in our neighborhoods," said Ed Boito, coalition campaign director, who works for PennFuture. "If real estate developers interested in restoring older buildings were given the opportunity to combine the federal tax credit with the proposed state tax credit, the number of jobs created and the economic benefit to individual communities would grow tremendously."

The state's Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Act has been stalled in the State Senate for more a year. HB 42, passed by the House in March 2009, provides grants of up to \$15,000 for exterior rehabilitation of historic residences, state tax credits of up to \$500,000 for rehabilitation of historic commercial properties and priority given to properties located in [Main Street](#), [Elm Street](#), Enterprise Zones and Historic Districts.

**Pennsylvania Works!** is a campaign to create public policy that puts Pennsylvanians to work and builds a resilient, robust and green economy for all. Founding partners of Pennsylvania Works! ([www.pennsylvaniaworks.org](http://www.pennsylvaniaworks.org)) include Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Alliance, the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, Keystone Research Center, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, PennEnvironment, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Preservation Pennsylvania, and Regional Housing Legal Services.

**Pennsylvania Works!** is coordinated by  
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