A SENATE RESOLUTION Commending the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

WHEREAS, On October 15, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the National Historic Preservation Act, which established the nation’s legal framework for the protection and preservation of historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeological discoveries;

WHEREAS, Over the past 50 years since its enactment, the National Historic Preservation Act has had a profound impact on communities throughout the State of Indiana and the United States as a whole;

WHEREAS, In the past 25 years alone, 1,600 communities have revitalized historic downtowns and main streets and have carried out 80,000 historic building rehabilitations;

WHEREAS, Due to these efforts, the National Register of Historic Places, created by the National Historic Preservation Act, now lists more than 80,000 historic properties, with nearly 2,000 of those properties being listed in the State of Indiana;

WHEREAS, The National Historic Preservation Act also created the Federal Preservation Tax Incentives Program, which is the largest federal program supporting historic preservation, and which has helped to create millions of jobs, save tens of thousands of historic structures that represent our nation’s history, and attract billions of dollars in investment;
WHEREAS, The State of Indiana in particular has a distinguished history of and dedication to the preservation of historic places, with great Hoosiers such as Eli Lilly, Glenn Black, Agnes McCullough Hanna, and Wilbur Poat having fostered early historic preservation efforts by investigating sites, calling attention to long-forgotten architectural wonders, and then restoring buildings through private efforts as well as public projects, such as the state's ongoing preservation of the J.F.D. Lanier Mansion;

WHEREAS, The State of Indiana now leads the nation with its Indiana Historic Sites and Structure Inventory, the only identification program in the country that has succeeded in completing its mission of recording historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects in all of its 92 counties;

WHEREAS, Historic preservation efforts throughout the state, beyond maintaining Indiana's heritage, are also a critical component of the economy, providing heritage tourism and federal tax credits for certified preservation projects; and

WHEREAS, To ensure a strong future for preservation efforts, the United States and thousands of other public, private, and nonprofit sector partners, including the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation, are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act throughout 2016 under the banner of "Preservation50":

Therefore,
Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate commends the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Preservation50 Advisory Committee.

Adopted by voice vote this twenty-fifth day of February, 2016.

JAMES MERRITT, JR.
State Senator

DAVID C. LONG
President Pro Tempore
State Senator

TOM LAMAR
Minority Leader
State Senator

JENNIFER M. MERTZ
Secretary of the Senate