Preservation League of NYS Statement on Prevailing Wage

The Preservation League of New York State is New York’s statewide historic preservation nonprofit. We invest in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development and education programs across the state and partner with local preservation organizations throughout New York.

The Preservation League supports the Governor’s proposed prevailing wage requirement outlined in the FY 2021 Executive Budget and agree that our nation-leading construction program should support the workers undertaking the projects.

The Preservation League also strongly supports the exemptions relating to historic preservation as part of the prevailing wage requirement. In particular we support the following:

- Prevailing wage only applies to projects over $5 million;
- Exemption of not-for-profits with gross annual revenue and support less than $5 million; and
- Exemption of projects receiving tax benefits relating to historic rehabilitation.

We believe that exempting historic preservation tax credits from the prevailing wage requirement will maintain the economic development momentum underway, as the NYS Historic Tax Credit continues to revitalize our communities and stimulate our economy. Already these NYS Historic Tax Credit projects are in census-tract qualified communities, contributing to economic development and community stabilization. This will allow investment to continue in those communities that need it most.

The project size and not-for-profit annual revenue minimum prevailing wage triggers ensure that the churches, synagogues, historic theatres, and museums that make our communities livable can restore and rehabilitate the community-defining buildings that house them.

The Preservation League appreciates the important public policy initiative that all laborers receive a prevailing wage when public funds are used. We appreciate Governor Cuomo’s thoughtful consideration of prevailing wage requirement impacts on our small nonprofits and historic tax credit projects in economically-distressed communities.