



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
300 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0024
www.phmc.state.pa.us

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of the Keystone Marker Trust's (KMT) application for funding. We understand Preservation Pennsylvania is the KMT's partner in this grant request.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is the official state history organization for Pennsylvania and is specifically charged with reviewing all signage that is historical in nature.

We understand that history is one of the state's most valuable assets as it faces considerable challenges in the years ahead to attract and retain industries, enhance tourism by marketing unique places, and rebuilding civic pride.

The program being established by the Keystone Marker Trust is an economical, long-lasting way to address these needs while creating employment opportunities across the state and reducing the state's infrastructure burden for years to come.

The keystone markers were once character-defining features of all of Pennsylvania's towns, river crossings, trails, etc. In the places where they remain, they are cherished elements of local fabric. Sadly, though many towns and civic groups have long sought to restore, refurbish, or replace their markers, the ability to do so has not existed for nearly 50 years. At PennDOT's request, the Keystone Marker Trust has assumed responsibility for the marker program and has worked diligently to create a program that will:

- Use the markers to market Pennsylvania towns and attractions using an interactive website that is tied into Google Earth and mobile Ipod/Droid features.
- Encourage adoption of the state's sustainable growth policy codified in the Keystone Principles & Criteria for Growth, Investment & Resource Conservation.
- Marker-adopting organizations will pledge to adopt the Keystone Principles.
- Promote community stewardship and civic pride through marker adoption. The KMT is developing an educational tool kit to use the markers to teach state and community history.

Production and installation of new markers, as well as repair of existing markers will be undertaken by Pennsylvania workers. Paints provided by Pittsburgh Paints and preservation and restoration services by Pennsylvania firms will generate employment in the near and long term.

The Keystone Marker Trust is seeking only modest support to augment the donations and volunteer labor they have marshaled from across the Commonwealth. We strongly encourage your support of their program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Franco', written over a horizontal line.

Barbara Franco
Executive Director