

(Date)

(Your Name)

(Your Address)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

The Honorable (Representative Name)

(Address)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

Dear (Representative Name),

As a citizen of the Town of Palm Beach, I implore you to rescind section 553.79(25) of the recently passed House Bill 423 (HB423). This section of the Bill restricts the ability of the Town to protect and preserve its historic resources and could lead to the irreparable loss of hundreds of properties of cultural and historical significance.

The Town of Palm Beach enacted its historic preservation ordinance in 1979, and over the past 40+ years, has designated over 350 properties of local significance. The Town is a Certified Local Government (CLG), and as such participates in all of the programmatic and reporting requirements of the CLG program. The Town and its citizens were surprised to learn of the final provisions of subsection (25), and so did not voice our concerns prior to its adoption as law.

The entire Town of Palm Beach falls within one of the flood zones listed within the new law. A 2020 survey of properties in Palm Beach revealed that there may be nearly 1,000 structures that are potentially eligible for historic designation, which are now potentially jeopardized by HB423. As our community continues to grow and change, it is essential that the Town be able to utilize our long-established historic preservation ordinance to plan for our future and protect our community's history through the designation of historic resources. Unfortunately, with the passing of HB423, a property in Palm Beach that is locally designated after January 1, 2022, without owner consent, and that sits below the current required floor elevation, can be demolished. In our community, this could mean that hundreds of historic structures could be lost forever.

I ask you, most urgently, to support restoring the ability for our community to protect its history, and rescind section 553.79(25) of HB423.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Email)

(Phone)