

Dear [Mayor/Governor's Name],

I am writing to bring to your attention the immense economic benefits and job creation opportunities that can be unlocked by saving the historic SS United States as a museum and cultural hub. As the [Mayor/Governor], I believe you understand the importance of preserving our nation's heritage while driving local economic growth.

The SS United States, an iconic symbol of American ingenuity and maritime history, has the potential to become a world-class tourist destination, generating significant revenue and creating jobs in the process. Here are some key economic benefits of preserving the SS United States:

- **Tourism Revenue:** A restored SS United States museum can attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, injecting millions of dollars into the local economy through ticket sales, merchandise, and hospitality services. For example, the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, California, attracts over 1 million visitors per year, generating an estimated \$30 million in annual revenue.
- **Job Creation:** The museum and its operations can create a substantial number of jobs, both during the restoration phase and in the long term. The SS United States museum could create over 500 jobs in areas such as education, marketing, operations and in areas such as hospitality, retail, maintenance and construction and restoration jobs during the initial renovation phase
- **Local Economic Stimulus:** The SS United States can serve as a catalyst for local economic development, stimulating investment in surrounding businesses, such as restaurants, hotels, and shops. A study by the National Trust for Historic Preservation found that every dollar invested in historic preservation generates an average return of \$1.50 in local economic activity.
- **Increased Property Values:** The presence of a world-class museum can increase property values, making it more attractive to residents, businesses, and investors. A study by the Urban Land Institute found that historic preservation projects can increase property values by up to 10%.
- **Education and Community Engagement:** The SS United States can serve as a unique educational resource, offering interactive exhibits, workshops, and programs that promote STEM education, maritime history, and cultural enrichment.
- **Heritage Preservation:** By restoring the SS United States, we can preserve an important piece of American history, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and learn from our nation's rich maritime heritage.
- **Tax Revenue:** The museum can generate significant tax revenue for local and state governments.

To make this vision a reality, we propose the following funding strategies:

- **Federal Funding:** Pursue funding opportunities through the National Park Service's Maritime Heritage Grant Program, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other federal agencies.
- **State and Local Funding:** Seek funding from state and local governments, including historic preservation tax credits and economic development grants.
- **Private Donations:** Establish a fundraising campaign to secure private donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations.
- **Corporate Partnerships:** Develop partnerships with local businesses and corporations to secure sponsorships and in-kind donations.

We estimate that the total cost of restoring the SS United States will be approximately \$500 million.

By working together, we can unlock the economic potential of the SS United States and create a vibrant cultural hub that benefits the local community, while preserving an important piece of American history.

Thank you for considering the economic benefits of preserving the SS United States.

Sincerely,

Hunter krone