April 19, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

RE: S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Congressman Larson:

I am writing on behalf of CG Management Company, LLC in its capacity as the managing member of Coltsville Redevelopment Company LLC, a Connecticut limited liability company, the owner of Colt's East Armory to confirm our support for the Coltsville National Historic Park.

As the developer of the East Armory, CG Management is committed to fulfilling our part of the conditions outlined in S. 615/ HR 1259, required for the establishment of the Coltsville National Historical Park. Specifically, we will provide the space under the iconic dome per the Coltsville National Park Visitor Experience Study performed by Museum Insights on November of 2008. We the stakeholders of Coltsville, are so committed to this endeavor that we are working to create the "Friends of Coltsville" so we can immediately define the visitor center space, provide public access to the balcony under the blue dome, and begin to tell the story of Sam and Elizabeth Colt in a thoughtful and insightful manner.

CG Management's development strategy for this nationally significant historic site is to honor the history of Coltsville while continuing to focus on responsible adaptive reuse of the previously abandoned factory space. Currently, we are very fortunate to have the following tenants at Colt:

- The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts - 750 students and 120 employees
- Insurity - 300 IT employees
- Foley Carrier Services – 120 employees
- The Riverstreet Autism Program at Coltsville - 52 students and 95 employees
- 50 Residents (includes live/work residents)
- Chef Harry's Culinary Project at Colt – 7 employees
- Think It Drink It – 5 employees
- CG Management Company LLC – 7 employees

In total, over 1,500 people currently work, live and attend school at the Colt complex.

Per the aforementioned Visitor Experience Study, a 10,000 SF visitor center could attract 60,000 tourists annually while allowing for continued private development of the remaining armory space including additional loft apartments, office space, and retail space. A few of the benefits of a National Park at Coltsville include increased tourism, jobs and renewed pride in our capital city.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the Colt Complex, please do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 522-5000 x 13.

Sincerely,

Lawrence P. Dooley
Managing Member
CG Management Company LLC

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

155 Wyllys Street ◊ Hartford, Connecticut 06106-9157 ◊ (860) 525-4289

"I have come that they may have life–and have it more abundantly." – John 10:10

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
90 State House Square, 10th Floor
Hartford, CT, 06103

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senate
One Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable John Larson
United States House of Representatives
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Congressman Larson:

I write on behalf of the members and friends of the Church of the Good Shepherd. We believe Good Shepherd is the heart and soul of Coltsville. It is not only an unparalleled pair of historic buildings (the church itself plus the Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House), but it continues to serve the social and spiritual purposes envisioned by Elizabeth Colt when she built them.

The Church of the Good Shepherd is fully supportive of the *Coltsville National Historical Park Act.* This bill will give the Secretary of the Interior authority to establish the Coltsville Historic District as a National Historical Park in Hartford, Connecticut.

The church already works to give people access to the remarkable story of Sam and Elizabeth Colt. Not only are the buildings open frequently for church services and church sponsored events, but we make space available in both buildings for public and private events sponsored by others. The parish house in particular serves as a real community center. We also provide tours of the building for groups that wish more detailed experience of the Colt legacy. We will be more than happy to enter into a formal agreement with the National Park Service for regular public access to the buildings once the bill is signed into law.

Good Shepherd has recently completed a plan to make the parish house accessible in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to bring it into conformance with local and state building and fire codes. We will now begin to raise funds to carry out this plan so that the building will be able to fully accommodate public gatherings of 200 or more people. Once this work is complete, the church and the parish house will provide the best public gathering places within the Coltsville district.

This area, rich in industrial history, social history, and culture, needs to be preserved for generations to come. We can think of no better way to do that than to establish Coltsville as a unit of the National Park System. Church of the Good Shepherd has long been designated an historic landmark. In 2008,the Coltsville area was designated a National Historic Landmark.

We hope the *Coltsville National Historical Park Act* will be reported favorably out of the Natural Resources Committee. It has not only our support and that of Sheldon/Charter Oak neighborhood residents, but also that of Connecticut.

Thank you.

The Rev. José Enrique Boisjoli Irizarry
Priest-in-Charge

April 17,2013

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal United
States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

Re. S. 1347, A bill to establish Coltsville National Park in the State of Connecticut and other purposes Dear Senator

Lieberman, Senator Blumenthal and Representative Larson

As the creators and directors of the Colt Culinary Project, a project that not only operates Food and Beverage businesses in Coltsville, our efforts are focused upon turning Coltsville, a symbol of Freedom in the United States of America, into an historical, educational and cultural Mecca for New England and beyond.

Our efforts include creating employment, curriculum enhancement for the surrounding schools and providing educational opportunities and cultural programs that expose and embrace the American History and Arts and Humanities in the area. This would simultaneously form a '■community" that serves as an example, a community that provides families with choices allowing them to be the best they can be. All of these efforts will not only further education, but create greatly needed employment opportunities for the state of Connecticut and beyond.

We also have a plan for unique retail, lodging and eateries that would serve the visitors expected from all over the world, once this designation is made.

The National Park designation would expedite the completion of the project and help create a destination that is themed toward the original values and qualities upon which this great country was built.

Thank you all fiof your commitment to making this a reality. Those of us who realize the importance of this once in a lifenme/opportunity for our state and this country support and applaud your hard work.

Sincerely,

Chef Harry and Laurie Schwartz
The Colt Culinary Project

CH Coltsville Holdings, LLC
The Colt Culinary Project
Cafe Colt Liaison
Celebrations Colts Bolts
Coltsville Curriculum Development, Internship Program and Mentorship Program
Colt Gateway 140 Huyshope
Avenue, Loft 628 Hartford,
Connecticut 06106

CT·TRUST
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

April 16, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

RE: S. 615/ HR 1259 a bill to establish the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

Dear Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy and Representative Larson:

On behalf of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, I am writing to urge your support of the National Park land package that includes establishing Coltsville as a National Historic Park: S. 615/ HR 1259 a bill to establish the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

For the Connecticut Trust, Coltsville National Park will be the culmination of almost two decades of advocacy to see the buildings restored and the complex recognized and offered as a public resource. The extraordinary national importance of the Coltsville story of precision manufacturing, innovative approaches to mechanization and the many contributions Elizabeth Colt, as a widow, made to ensure the development of a culturally vibrant capital will be part of the national consciousness, where it finally deserves to be.

There is no better time for a National Park to be established at Coltsville. The old industrial complex, with its various armories and outbuildings, is hopping with activity. One by one, the buildings have been and are being renovated. Tenants range from residents to students to manufacturing workers and restaurateurs. The Coltsville complex is emerging as the best there can be in reimagining our old industrial complexes and making them work for the 21st century. A National Park in this vibrant mix will bring visitors who will not only be immersed in the history of Coltsville but will also experience firsthand the return to life that an old industrial complex can undergo. Coltsville is a happening place that will become a centerpiece for Hartford and Connecticut once designated a National Park.

The Connecticut Trust stands ready now and in the future to assist the National Park Service, the State of Connecticut, the City of Hartford and other local partners in making Coltsville a successful National Park in Hartford. The Trust is a partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation which has a strong interest in this project.

Thank you for taking the leadership to ensure the designation of Coltsville as a National Historic Park.

Sincerely,

Helen Higgins

Helen Higgins
Executive Director

940 Whitney Avenue Hamden, CT 06517-4002 Phone: 203.562.6312 Fax: 203.773.0107 www.cttrust.org

Hartford **Preservation Alliance**
56 Arbor Street, Suite
Hartford, CT 06106

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

Re: S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

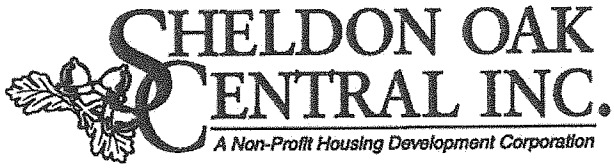
Dear Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy and Representative Larson:

The Hartford Preservation Alliance, Inc. is pleased to support S. 615/HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act. Coltsville, a National Historic Landmark, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an integral component of Hartford's historic landscape. HPA believes Coltsville to be a prime candidate for National Park status for the incredible innovative contributions the site has made to U.S. and International history.
HPA considers Coltsville one of the most recognized sites in the Capital City and support for creation of a Coltsville National Historic Park certainly aligns with the mission of HPA which is to advocate for the preservation and revitalization of Hartford, Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Tomas J. Nenortas
Associate Director

SHELDON OAK CENTRAL INC.
A Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation



April 19, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
30 Lewis Street, Suite 101
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator
One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable John Larson
United States Congress
221 Main Street, 2nd floor
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

Dear Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy and Representative Larson:

I am writing on behalf of Sheldon Oak Central, Inc., the community development organization that owns five properties comprising almost 250 family and senior apartments in Sheldon/Charter Oak, the neighborhood around the Coltsville complex.

We wholeheartedly support the proposal to establish the Coltsville National Historical Park. We believe this initiative has enormous potential to benefit the community, the city of Hartford and the state of Connecticut.

Since 1995, Sheldon Oak Central has worked with residents and community groups to invest nearly $20 million to acquire and rehabilitate properties. Our goal has been to revitalize Sheldon/Charter Oak into a thriving urban walk-to-work neighborhood, and our redevelopment efforts have been supported by simultaneous redevelopment efforts at Coltsville, among others. Designating Coltsville as a National Park will propel the Coltsville redevelopment forward; it will leverage additional investment and job creation in the neighborhood and in doing so will benefit the neighborhood and the city as a whole.

54 South Prospect Street, Hartford CT 06106-1937
(860) 246-0666 | Fax: (860) 246-0203
www.sheldonoak.org

As a stakeholder in Sheldon/Charter Oak, we very much look forward to working with the City of Hartford, the state of Connecticut and the National Park Service to realize the success of Coltsville National Park.

We sincerely thank you for your support and advocacy of this important endeavor.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel O. Merida
Executive Director

Cc: Lynn Ferrari, Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood
Bernadine Silvers, Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood
The Honorable Pedro Segarra, Mayor, City of Hartford

Dannel P. Malloy
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Unites States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
Unites States Representative

Re: S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

Dear Senator Murphy, Senator Blumenthal and Representative Larson:

For more than a decade, the State of Connecticut has strongly supported and invested significantly in the re-development, remediation and renovation of Coltsville, the most significant and visible site in our rich precision manufacturing history. As the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks considers S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act, I pledge the State of Connecticut's continued financial support to the Coltsville renovation and re-development, and specifically to Colt's East Armory in the near term.

With three Coltsville buildings fully renovated and nearly fully occupied, there is tremendous potential for Coltsville as a National Historic Park. This designation and support from the National Park Service would propel the Coltsville redevelopment forward, and a National Park would have a beneficial effect on our state, and the city of Hartford, both in terms of job creation and urban revitalization.

Furthermore, a National Historical Park at the 17-acre Colt complex will bring to life the precision manufacturing and innovative approaches to mechanization cultivated and inspired by Sam Colt. It will complement prestigious historic landmarks in Hartford, such as the Mark Twain House and the Wadsworth Athenaeum, and expand Connecticut's tourism industry, one of the top five job producers in our state. It's a vision that everyone can agree on, including former U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who visited the Colt campus in September of 2011. After touring the complex, he endorsed the idea of Colt becoming a national park because of its role in the Industrial Revolution.

Connecticut has been and continues to be tremendously supportive of the renovation and redevelopment of Coltsville, providing significant funding and technical assistance toward the preservation of the historic complex. To date, the state has invested $7,705,000 in the Colt Gateway Project. The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) administered $5,605,000 of

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210 CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
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Governor.Malloy@ct.gov

the funding in the form of a $4,500,000 grant for the construction and renovation of utility infrastructure, including the power plant. To date, $3,480,000 was used to complete the infrastructure projects and the balance of $1,020,000 was used to install windows in the South and East Armory buildings as well as facade and roof replacement for the East Armory building.

In addition, DECD committed $405,000 for abatement and demolition of structures on state-owned property adjacent to the historic Sawtooth building in order to provide additional parking to serve the complex. DECD also committed $700,000 from the Statewide Revolving Loan Fund for remediation of petroleum and hazardous contamination in the courtyard area of the former Colt factory complex. Of the $7,705,000, the Connecticut Development Authority (CDA) administered a $2,100,000 loan to complete the interior build-out of the South Armory.

The state has made other significant investments in and around Coltsville. The Capital Regional Education Council was relocated to buildings on the north and south parts of the campus, and DECD provided a $500,000 grant to Colt's developer for leasehold improvements so that Foley Carrier Services, LLC, a transportation logistics company, could move its headquarters into the South Armory. The move brings 110 jobs to Hartford immediately, with plans to add up to 70 new jobs within three years.

All this funding demonstrates the significant support Connecticut has had for a fully renovated Coltsville and additional investments are being considered as the next phase of redevelopment commences. Specifically, another $5 million has been allocated for DECD to administer as future projects progress.

A fully renovated Coltsville that includes a National Historic Park will be an economic catalyst for Hartford. It is a vision that I am strongly committed to realizing. I have instructed my administration to actively work with Coltsville developer Larry Dooley and Hartford to craft a financing plan to renovate and re-develop the East Armory that will turn Coltsville into a revitalized residential, commercial and historic destination linked to downtown Hartford.

Thank you for your steadfast leadership and advocacy to secure the designation of Coltsville as a National Historic Park.

Sincerely,

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Friends of Vintage Base Ball, Inc.
P.O. Box 2522 · Hartford, CT 06146
860-956-9465 · info@friendsofvintagebaseball.org

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

RE: S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

On behalf of the Board of Directors, members and volunteers of the Friends of Vintage Base Ball, I am writing to urge you to support the bill to establish Coltsville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut.

As Sam Colt's empire was growing and thriving in the the 19th century, base ball was being played in earnest in Hartford. The city's first semi-professional base ball team was the Charter Oak Base Ball Club, formed in June 1862. The Charter Oak attracted the greatest ball teams of the era to Hartford—the Athletics of Philadelphia, the Unions of Morrisania and the Atlantics of Brooklyn. It was not uncommon for visiting teams to be given a tour of the Colt Armory prior to the game to show off Hartford's pride in being the home of cutting-edge manufacturing processes.

In 1874, Morgan Bulkeley, the Aetna Insurance Company's first president, formed the Hartford Base Ball Club in the American Association. He leased land in Coltsville adjacent to the Church of the Good Shepherd from Elizabeth Colt who graciously allowed the Hartford Base Ball Grounds to be built on her estate. The stadium was considered the finest in the country at that time and seated 2,000 spectators. Two years later, Hartford was selected as a charter member of base ball's elite fraternity of eight cities that participated in the inaugural year of professional base ball and the birth of the National League. Morgan Bulkeley was elected the league's first president, a fact that enshrined him in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The history of base ball and of the Colts has been intertwined for many years. Today, the Friends of Vintage Base Ball—a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization—is reestablishing base ball in Coltsville by organizing events and games between teams that use the costumes, culture, rules and equipment of the 1860s–1880s. Our ultimate goal is to build an authentic 19th century ballpark with grandstands in Coltsville and be a significant contributor to the Coltsville National Historical Park visitor experience. Such a facility would not only help to replicate the cultural atmosphere of Coltsville in the 19th century, it would be unique in the country, attracting vintage teams and spectators from around the globe. This would certainly spur economic revitalization of the neighborhood, the city and the state.

We stand ready to do whatever is necessary towards the establishment of the national park and thank you for your efforts in ensuring that HR 1259 is passed.

Regards,

Karen O'Maxfield, President

KO:ms

William Hosley
Terra Firma Northeast
30 Old Abbe Rd.
Enfield, CT 06082

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

Dear Connecticut Congressional Leaders:

I am writing to support for S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act.

Since 1986, I have been engrossed in scholarship, public programming and historic preservation efforts aimed at saving and inspiring future generations with the stories associated with Coltsville, one of industrial age America's most fascinating and in tact historic sites. I have witnessed a rising tide of public acclimation for the Coltsville initiative that cuts across a diverse spectrum of concerns, from the usual preservationists, museum and tourism officials, to neighborhood residents, school teachers and a growing community whose pride of price embraces Hartford's role an incubators of the industrial age or, as we sometimes phrase it, *the Silicon Valley of the 19th Century*.

I am impressed with the sophistication and enthusiasm of the case that's been made for its significance by National Park Service personnel. With more than 30 Colt-era buildings still intact, the built environment in Coltsville is remarkable in its beauty, integrity and survival. Like most industrial buildings, Colt's East Armory, with its famous blue onion dome, has experienced changes over the years. I am astonished not by what it has been lost but by how much of what was there, remains and by its integrity.

What has not been widely reported is the even more remarkable survival and preservation *in the public domain* of family and company archives and collections (Wadsworth Atheneum, Museum of Connecticut History, Connecticut Historical Society, Armsmear, Church of the Good Shepherd, Colt Memorial House) that could never be replaced and has a market value in excess of $200 million dollars! Because Mrs. Colt had a long history of civic philanthropy, she went to extraordinary lengths to preserve evidence that is usually lost. As important as the Colt story is in American industrial history, it is equally important and more unique in the evidence it also preserves of the corresponding *industrial civilization* that is every bit as important to the American industrial age story.

The integrity of this *dual asset* – industrial buildings, products and processes *and* visual and material evidence of industrial age cultural resources, values and initiatives - gives Hartford and anything that might happen in conjunction with this site, a huge leg up on other places where either the stories are not as compelling, the personalities not as colorful, or the buildings AND collections not as in tact. Our friends at NPS have argued that Hartford/Springfield have the potential to THE PLACE in all the nation, where Americans visit to learn about the epic achievement of our first high tech industrial age.

This is one of the most important historic preservation initiatives ever undertaken in Connecticut. At present Connecticut has one small National Park site in Weir Farm. Our neighbor immediately to the north has 18 National Park sites. It is long past time that this get done and given the subject matter – this ought to be an opportunity to cross the aisle and get support from potential friends like Sen. Richard Shelby, who I am sure understands the value of this as well as we do. Indeed, if an offer was made to name some aspect of a visitor center after him in conjunction with his impending retirement – I suspect it would be a slam dunk!

Please do whatever it takes to get this done for Connecticut.

Sincerely,

William Hosley
Colt Scholar – "Colt: The Making of an American Legend"
Principal, Terra Firma Northeast
wnhosley@snet.net
860-944-8349

Metro Hartford Alliance

R. Nelson Griebel
President & CEO

31 Pratt Street, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
tel (860) 525-4451
fax (860) 293-2592

April 16, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
30 Lewis Street, Suite 101
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senate
One Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable John Larson
United States Congress
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Congressman Larson:

The Alliance serves as the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce, and our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers and institutions of higher education, and 32 municipalities. Our mission is to ensure that the Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital and talent so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, work, play and raise a family.

On behalf of the Alliance investors, I write to reiterate our strong continued support for the designation of the Coltsville Historic District (the "District") as a National Park. We specifically urge your continued efforts on behalf of the passage of S.615/HR 1259, the Coltsville National Historical Park Act (the "Act").

As you know, the District is home to one of the nation's first precision manufacturing facilities, and the significant contributions to technological innovation and manufacturing advancements by Elizabeth and Samuel Colt and generations of Colt employees are well documented. The Colt legacy of industrial innovation and technological development literally changed the landscape of American business, labor relations and the entire fabric of a major United States city. Accordingly, the District would be an outstanding addition to the existing roster of remarkable National Parks as it both defines an important part of the American experience and illustrates a class of industry that is underrepresented currently in our nation's park portfolio.

It is clear that the timing for this designation is also of critical importance to our local economy. According to McKinsey and Company, the leisure and hospitality sector could add between 2.1 and 3.3 million jobs in this decade. By increasing awareness of Hartford's significant natural and cultural attractions, we have the potential to expand foreign and domestic visitation, a key job growth at a time when job growth is our primary focus.

The Act carries with it the enhanced benefit of stimulating a stagnant economy by improving upon a national treasure, a treasure that led the Industrial Revolution and changed the borders of our nation. Again, we enthusiastically endorse the request that the District be designated a National Park and thank you for your ongoing efforts to see that the Act is passed.

Please contact me at 860-728-2277 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Cody
Chairman
Ranjana Chawla
Vice-Chair/Fundraising
James F. Gleason
Vice-Chair/Management
Camilo Serna
Vice-Chair/Planning & Development
David Klein
Treasurer
Rita Rivera Ortiz
Secretary
Joseph R. Marfuggi
President and CEO
David R. Robb
Immediate Past Chair

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator
90 State House Square, 10th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator
One Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative
221 Main St, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Riverfront Recapture in support of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee's submission of Coltsville to the National Park Service for consideration as a National Historical Park.

Riverfront Recapture, Inc. is a private, non-profit 501(c)3 that was founded in 1981 by a group of corporate and community leaders for the purpose of restoring access to the Connecticut River. We have raised over $60 million for the capital projects in both Hartford and East Hartford that are generating significant benefits to the community. Public access to the river is once again possible for local residents and tourists, and the riverfront has become a catalyst for economic development on land adjacent to the parks on both banks of the river.

Our Riverfront Master Plan, which was adopted by the City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford in 1982, envisioned a revitalized Coltsville that was home to both small businesses and local residents and reunited with the Connecticut River. This reconnection to the river was deemed important because Sam and Elizabeth Colt located their factory at that site so they could receive raw materials and ship their finished products by water. That historic connection was later blocked by the construction of a flood control dike and the interstate highway between Coltsville and the river. The restoration of this connection to the river will help us complete a three-mile loop system of riverwalks connecting Hartford and East Hartford.

50 Columbus Boulevard • 1st Floor • Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1984 • (860) 713-3131 • Fax (860) 713-3138
www.riverfront.org

Riverfront Recapture has long supported the owners and developers' various efforts to restore Coltsville with the goal of returning the historic structure to local prominence. The designation of Coltsville as a National Historic Landmark was an important step towards the ultimate goal of Coltsville becoming a National Historical Park.

To support the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee's efforts, Riverfront Recapture will continue the development of our riverfront park system including the construction of a new park entrance adjacent to the East Armory. The new entrance will include a public plaza, a walkway and an operating gate in the dike that will restore the on-grade pedestrian connection to the river that was lost when the dike was constructed in the 1940's, followed by the highway's construction in the 1950's. The walkway will include a history wall, more than 200' in length, that will retell Hartford's development along the Connecticut River from the early 1700's through the 20th century, with a significant portion dedicated to the Coltsville story as it relates to the river. In addition, we plan to mimic architectural details of the East Armory in the structures and plaza hardscape which will help tie Coltsville to the riverfront.

For the reasons stated above, we urge the National Park Service to look favorably upon the committee's submission of Coltsville as a National Historical Park. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Marfuggi
President & CEO

Cc: John Rossi

PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Senator Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Congressman John B. Larson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Senator Christopher Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: **S. 615/HR 1259 The Coltsville National Historical Park Act**

Dear Senators Blumenthal, Murphy and Congressman Larson:

On behalf of the City of Hartford, Connecticut's Capital City, I write to express profound support for the designation of the Coltsville Historic District as a National Park. This effort, which has the broad support of City's institutions and organizations, is critical to the southern revitalization of Connecticut's Capital City, and will become a centerpiece of the City's effort to increase its focus on historic and heritage tourism.

I am pleased to hear that the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources sub-committee on National Parks is scheduled to hold a hearing on this proposal on April 23rd and it is my hope and expectation that Coltsville will be included in the final bill. The Coltsville manufacturing facility and surrounding structures played a critical – if not essential – role in defining the direction of the United States during a time of great exploration and innovation. It is symbolic that we are now again presented with a monumental decision that, if approved, will help to shape and encourage an ongoing renaissance in the City of Hartford and further promote the historic and necessary investment that Governor Dannel Malloy has made to restore funding designed to promote Connecticut's culture and tourism destinations.

The City of Hartford is deeply invested in the Coltsville neighborhood. We have already rebuilt two schools and improved housing stock in the immediate area, and have committed $5 million dollars to construct 78 new units of housing and almost $3 million dollars in matching funds to improve surrounding streets in ways that will redefine space, improve visuals, increase safety and enhance the overall vibrancy of the area. We also stand ready to assist with other elements as greater scope and definition are added to the revitalization of one of America's first, and arguably most preeminent, industrial zones.

It is also important to briefly recognize the number of jobs this effort will create and the overall impact to the economy. Not only will the trades benefit through an intense construction effort, but long-term leisure and hospitality sector jobs will be supported and added as well. This does not even account for on-going maintenance, housing and other infrastructure opportunities. With an intense focus and commitment in these areas, the City has already seen significant return on investment in these areas through the creation of hundreds of jobs and the hundreds of millions of dollars that have been infused into the local economy.

I thank you for your continued support of this effort and the many positive outcomes that will no doubt result from Coltsville being designated as a National Park; a recognition that is long-past due.

Respectfully,

Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606

HARTFORD
HAS IT

The Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak Neighborhood

(CSS/CON)

c/o CREC
111 Charter Oak Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

RE: S. 615/ HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Congressman Larson:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sheldon/Charter Oak NRZ, I wish to reiterate our very strongest support for Coltsville National Historic Park. Our neighborhood, in which Coltsville is located, has always supported this plan and has been an active member of the Coltsville Ad Hoc Committee since the idea was conceived.

While the name Sam Colt is synonymous with Hartford and the firearms industry, the story of Coltsville is much bigger and more interesting than simply the manufacturing of guns. Sam Colt built a model factory, which employed the most advanced manufacturing technology and precision engineering of the day. Coltsville is nationally important in American industrialization and a leader in the interchangeability of parts and mechanization of virtually all aspects of manufacturing. The Colts created more than a factory. They designed a planned urban industrial district, including housing, recreational facilities, meeting halls, and churches. Much of this fabric remains today within the Coltsville area under consideration.

The significance of Coltsville is so much bigger than the sum of its physical parts. It's the story of a widow (Elizabeth) running a multi-national company; a springboard for entrepreneurs who honed their skills at Colt and went on to create typewriters, automobiles, sewing machines, bicycles, aircraft parts, and more; and it's the story of epic philanthropy as evidenced by massive art collections, memorials, and parkland donated to the public realm.

I urge you, and all your fellow Senators and Congressmen, to support S. 615/ HR 1259. Our organization hopes to welcome the world to Coltsville through the experience of a National Park, so that they too might learn of the good that came from here, not just the production of guns.

Sincerely,

Lynn H. Ferrari
President

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Susan L. Talbott
Director and C.E.O.

April 17, 2013

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

The Honorable John Larson
United States Representative

Re: S. 615/HR 1259 the Coltsville National Historical Park Act

Dear Senator Murphy, Senator Blumenthal, and Representative Larson:

On behalf of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, I write to reiterate our strong support of the Coltsville Historic National Park Act. The Wadsworth Atheneum recognizes Coltsville as an important site that documents momentous innovations in America's technological, industrial, and cultural development.

In 1905, Elizabeth Hart Jarvis Colt, wife of Samuel Colt, bequeathed to the Wadsworth Atheneum an extraordinary collection of artifacts from her husband's firearms factories and their home, *Armsmear*. The Wadsworth's Collection possesses rare and elaborately designed patent pistols that pay homage to the genius of Samuel Colt and the skilled craftspeople in his factories. In addition, this expansive collection preserves the memory of Mrs. Colt's art patronage to contemporary artists such as Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, as well as her civic leadership in Hartford and the U.S Sanitary Commission during the Civil War.

The establishment of a National Park museum at the Coltsville East Armory would be enormously beneficial to the contextual validation and interpretation of our museum's collections and those in the possession of our sister institutions, the Connecticut State Library, the Hartford History Museum, and the Connecticut Historical Society. It opens extensive opportunities for collaborative programming and a communal site for the continual display of materials documenting the Colts' public service. The Wadsworth Atheneum looks forward to partnering with the Coltsville administrators in the development of exhibitions, school programs, and community projects that illustrate the Colt story.

We applaud your legislative efforts as they bring the Coltsville project closer to being fully realized and accessible to students, tourists, and scholars alike.

Sincerely,

Susan Talbott

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