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April 14, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether,
Chief
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street NW (2280) 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. J. Paul Loether,

I write on behalf of Mr. John S. Hibschman President of the Historic preservation Trust of Berks County, who has asked my help in obtaining National Historic Landmark Designation from the United States Department of the Interior. I present this letter of recommendation for the preservation of the Jacob Keim Farmstead in Pike Township Berks County Pennsylvania. I believe that the Keim Farmstead is historically important and worthy of national recognition of the National Historic Landmark designation.

The Keim Farmstead tells the American story of immigrants fleeing war in Europe and coming to the United States to find a new way of life. Johannes Keim was the first settler to stake a claim in the Oley Valley and settled the farm in 1706. He would pass the farmstead down to his youngest son of his first wife, Jacob, who was a turner. The business and agriculture produced on the farm was of economic importance to the area. The farm would remain in the Keim family until 1911 when it was sold to Mahlon Boyer. The Boyers would hold the property until 1978 when they gifted the property to Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County.

As a resident in Pike Township, I know that family and farming are cornerstones of Pike Township and the Oley Valley. The Keim Farmstead is just a small piece of a larger community. However as the community around the Farmstead grows it is important that we recall our past and preserve it for future generations. That is why I strongly support and urge you to consider the request to designate the Jacob Keim Farmstead in Pike Township Berks County Pennsylvania a National Historic Landmark.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of Mr. John S. Hibschman application for the Jacob Keim Farmstead.

Sincerely,

David M. Maloney Sr.
State Representative
130th Legislative District