

August 22, 2013

Mr. John M. Shehan
Chairman, Historic District Commission
43 Broadway
Newport, Rhode Island 02840

Dear John,

I fully support the Preservation Society of Newport County's application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to build a Welcome Center at The Breakers. I respectfully request that you approve their application.

I am a longstanding member and supporter of the Preservation Society. I believe wholeheartedly in the vital importance of this project, based on my profound admiration of the Preservation Society and its mission to *preserve, protect and present the exceptional collection of properties and landscapes* in its care.

The Breakers is visited by more than 400,000 each year and I understand that over 24 million people have seen The Breakers since the Preservation Society opened it to the public in 1948. Each year, 400,000 visitors learn firsthand about Newport's history, architecture and landscapes. Experiencing history in such a personalized manner nurtures the next generation of stewards of America's cultural heritage. I care deeply about this.

The economic benefits of such consistent annual visitation to Newport, to Newport County and to the state of Rhode Island are profound. It is estimated that visitors to the Preservation Society spend close to \$100 million in Newport and Newport County each year. Additionally, the Preservation Society employs over 400 members of our community. Such investment in our human capital and support of our small businesses are invaluable.

Since the temporary ticketing tent was erected at The Breakers in 2001, \$16,500,000 has been generated in net revenues through the sale of tickets and memberships, every dollar of which supports an endless roster of maintenance and restoration projects each year at the Preservation Society. Sustaining the organization's ability to preserve this revenue source is imperative.

The Welcome Center will treat our visitors with the dignity, respect and comfort they deserve. The building will be beautiful and appropriate to the magnificent setting, the landscapes renewed to make Ernest W. Bowditch proud, and the amenities offered to our visitors modest, convenient and efficient.

As the state of Rhode Island's historic preservation commission has found merit in this project and granted its approval, I respectfully request that the members of Newport's Historic District Commission approve the Preservation Society of Newport County's application before you.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guillaume de Ramel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Guillaume de Ramel
59 Perry Street
Newport, Rhode Island

cc: John Shehan, john@homerevival.com

Matt Weintraub, City of Newport Preservation Planner, mweintraub@CityofNewport.com