Subtitle E—Sense of Congress

SEC. 82501. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the landmark National Historic Preservation Act, which, among other things, established the National Register of Historic Places.

(2) Independence Heights is just one of dozens of communities throughout the United States that can trace its beginning to freed slaves and since its beginning in 1915 it has survived economic hardship, natural disasters, and the period of 1919-1921 called the “Burnings”.

(3) Because of the historical and cultural significance, of places like Independence Heights within the United States, that are just now coming into fuller appreciation by the American public.
(4) New laws like Public Law 116-111, which is the first step in creating the Emancipation National Historic Trail which begins at the location in Galveston, Texas, where General Gordon Granger announced President Lincoln’s Emancipation of slaves on June 19, 1865, are now becoming possible.

(5) The requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act apply with respect to Department of Transportation approval of a highway project that may adversely impact historic buildings and neighborhoods in historic areas around the nation.

(6) Under the law, the Department must make an assessment about the effect of the project on historic properties and evaluate options to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the effects.

(7) This assessment must be completed in consultation with the State and local partners as well with civic and community leaders.

(8) To meet the stewardship obligations of the public trust regarding historic sites, Department officials must consider the views and input of civic and community leaders of in assessing whether the federally support transportation project complies with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.
(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.— It is the sense of Congress that Members of Congress are committed to the work of bringing our nation’s infrastructure into the 21st Century and beyond while we maintain and preserve the history of communities that are just now being recognized for their contributions to our nation’s great history.