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September 20, 2020

Dear friends,

The New Philadelphia Association is writing to request your support for the New Philadelphia National Historical Park Act, H.R. 8224, introduced on September 11, 2020 by Congressman Darin LaHood.

Of national historical significance, New Philadelphia is the first town in our nation founded and legally registered by an African American. As a unit of the National Park System, New Philadelphia will be a place to inspire current and future generations and to commemorate themes important to all Americans: the struggle for freedom and opportunity and the love for family. Now an archaeological site, New Philadelphia is a place where formerly enslaved and free-born African Americans and European Americans lived together in a region and era of intense racial strife.

Founded by Frank McWorter, a formerly enslaved man who, through his own initiative including the sale of lots in New Philadelphia, purchased freedom for himself and family members left behind in bondage. More than a century after most of its residents moved away, the memory of New Philadelphia endures.

Archaeological findings at New Philadelphia provide a unique opportunity to study a racially diverse mid-19th century community. There is currently no comparable site represented in the National Park System. New Philadelphia is designated a National Historic Landmark, a member of the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, and artifacts unearthed at the site are displayed in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's "Many Voices, One Nation" exhibit. National Park status will ensure that the site is perpetually protected and preserved.

(continued)

P.O. Box 54, Barry, IL 62312 jeffm@adams.net <http://www.newphiladelphiail.org>

The New Philadelphia Association works to commemorate, preserve, and learn about the first town in the United States founded and legally registered by an African American, Free Frank McWorter.

We are a non-profit with 501-c-3 status; contributions are deductible for federal tax purposes.

(page 2 re LaHood bill)

The New Philadelphia Association (NPA) is dedicated to preserve, protect and promote the legacy of Frank McWorter, the historic New Philadelphia town site and its residents. Upon approval of the legislation, the NPA intends to transfer ownership of property owned by the organization to the National Park System.

A sample letter accompanies this request. Please add your name and address, or feel free to modify or compose your own letter and submit it by email to Congressman LaHood's legislative director Ashley.Antoskiewicz@mail.house.gov with a copy to the New Philadelphia Association's Washington DC board member Charlotte King at kcomprix@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Philip Bradshaw, President, New Philadelphia Association