



# WASATCH ACADEMY

Established 1875

House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Raul Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop:

I am writing on behalf of Wasatch Academy to express our support for the enactment of HR 1049, the National Heritage Area Act of 2019. The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) has been important in assisting Wasatch Academy's renovation of historic buildings. Wasatch Academy is a boarding school founded in 1875 by a Presbyterian Minister. Our relationship with Central Utah has been unique. The story of our school and the many other fascinating stories that make up the MPNHA area is worth sharing and preserving. The MPNHA has been instrumental in helping us to preserve historic buildings. It has also been important in assisting our rural economy.

The original Wasatch Academy school building is called Liberal Hall. It is located on the historic main street in Mount Pleasant. Liberal Hall had a fire in the early 1920's. At this time, Wasatch Academy built a new building on our current campus. Mount Pleasant city owned Liberal Hall for many years and used it as a senior center. In the 1990's, the city built a new senior center and traded Liberal Hall back to the school for a van that had 300,000 miles on it. Liberal Hall was dilapidated and in disrepair. Liberal Hall sat empty, dilapidated, and in disrepair for another decade. Because of a small grant from the MPNHA, Wasatch Academy was able to do some minor repairs and get a renovation design in place. With this momentum, we were able to raise roughly \$500,000 to renovate Liberal Hall. Today, this building is a beautiful asset to Mount Pleasant's main street and is used to tell the story of Wasatch Academy.

We have had several other historic building renovations that have been started with a small grant from the MPNHA. The dollars contributed by the MPNHA have resulted in Wasatch Academy being able to attract millions of dollars of donations. The renovations have been significant for our campus, the city of Mount Pleasant, and the MPNHA.

Passage of H.R. 1049 is crucial to ensure that the federal government through the National Park Service continues to play a small but important part in these type of multi-party partnerships through the 20-year authorization of the program. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Applegarth  
Assistant Head of School for Finance and Facilities