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421 Comstock Parkway
Cranston, Rhode Island 02921

August 27, 2013

To: John Shehan, Chairman, Historic District Commission
CC: Matt Weintraub, Preservation Planner
Guy Weston, Zoning Officer
From: David C. DePetrillo

Dear Mr. Shehan,

I am writing in support of the Preservation Society of Newport County's plans for a welcome center on the grounds of The Breakers.

As a former Director of Tourism for Rhode Island, it was my privilege to work closely with the Society for many years. I have always been impressed by the caring and professional stewardship that its leaders and staff have shown for its collection of amazing architectural and cultural treasures. That's why I was not surprised when I saw the superb design of its proposed welcome center and the way it was so carefully sited on the grounds of The Breakers.

Beyond the obvious needs that it will accommodate, I believe visitors would be delighted to be introduced to the Society's properties at this facility. It would not only provide them with a very positive first impression, but will significantly enhance their total Newport experience as well.

It is my hope that the Historic District Commission will approve this critically-needed facility at The Breakers. Thank you.