Marvin Ninneman
2630 Douglas Drive
Bloomfield, MI 48304

December 13, 2007
The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Knollenberg:

As a constituent, I am writing to request that you sign on as a co-sponsor to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Commemorative Coin Act of 2007 (H.R. 158) and The Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 160.) This legislation will authorize funding for permanent preservation to protect the fields of freedom that witnessed the struggles of our early Republic. The permanent preservation of these battlefields is very important to me, and with the successful passing of these bills we will make great strides toward permanently preserving this land for future generations.

The U.S. Congress, concerned that "the historical integrity of many Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites is at risk," enacted legislation calling for a study of historic sites associated with the two early American Wars. In 1996 the U.S. Congress commissioned the National Park Service to conduct this study. The study was completed and published in July of 2006 in draft form. This comprehensive report concluded that 38% of Revolutionary War battlefield sites are in good or fair condition, and over 60% are in poor condition or completely lost. Roughly 47% of War of 1812 sites are in good to fair condition. The final report is in the process of being published. It is important that action is taken now to ensure that these losses do not continue.

The above study cited that no national organization exists dedicated solely to the physical preservation and permanent protection of these two wars. The Preservation Society for the American Revolution was formed, as a nonprofit predominantly to fill this void, and is fully behind this legislation.

As America continues to encroach on rural lands for development, our historic battlefields are in jeopardy of being lost. The increased rural expansion in recent years emphasizes the need to act now.

I urge you to co-sponsor this legislation and help preserve America's heritage for future generations.

Sincerely,

Marvin F. Ninneman