

January 7, 2009

Dear Members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation,

I write this letter to support the inclusion of Hinchliffe Stadium, in Paterson, New Jersey on your list of "America's Top 11 Most Endangered Places" for 2010.

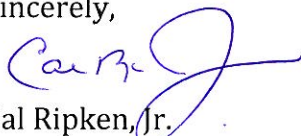
In the last year alone, America has lost two of baseball's historic architectural treasures to the wrecking ball: Tiger Stadium in Detroit and Yankee Stadium in New York. With the fall of these stadiums, it is crucial that we recognize the historic venues that served as community gathering places, cultural centerpieces and the home of America's National Pastime for generations.

The preservation of the history of baseball is essential to understanding the context in which the history of this country was formed. Hinchliffe Stadium's role in the Negro Leagues and the legendary players who played there are not just significant to the history of baseball, but to the history of segregation, race relations and the integration of society in the United States. If a stadium like Hinchliffe can't be preserved, will the historical significance of these events fade soon thereafter?

As I pursue the mission to "grow the game of baseball worldwide" through my work, I stress the history of the game nearly as much as the fundamentals themselves. As much as we do to help today's youth understand earlier eras and the important contributions of the players that came before them, that message can be made so much stronger if they can *see* or *feel* or even have the opportunity to *play* on an actual historical field.

For these reasons, I believe that Hinchliffe Stadium deserves inclusion on your list. Not only does it deserve recognition for its place in history, but it deserves the opportunity to be restored into a place where tomorrow's youth will be able to walk in the footsteps of yesterday's legends, and experience the history of this country first-hand.

Sincerely,



Cal Ripken, Jr.
National Baseball Hall of Fame, Class of 2007
CEO, Ripken Baseball