

Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark (GSENLH)  
5304 Oxbow Road P.O. Box 6  
Peterboro, NY 13134

National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum (NAHOF)  
5255 Pleasant Valley Road P.O. Box 55  
Peterboro, NY 13134

December 19, 2022

Attn: Paul Ashe, Director  
National Bell Festival  
3835 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE  
Washington, D.C. 20032  
202-964-2355  
ashe@bells.org

Dear Paul,

The Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark (GSENLH) and the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum admire the vision of the creation of the Emancipation Bells carillon to honor American abolitionists. The GSENLH sends greetings from Smith's home in Peterboro and applauds the location of the carillon close to the home of Smith's close friend Frederick Douglass. As NAHOF lights the Annual Peterboro Watch Night fire on December 31, 2022, and reads the Emancipation Proclamation, the Cabinet of Freedom will be aware of the announcement that you will issue the following day to commemorate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's January 1, 1863 proclamation, and share the news of the carillon development.

As your project states: *The bell of freedom cannot be unringed*. Importantly, the carillon messages will be "tollled" not only upon its awesome creation but continually for years – as appealing reminders that the legacy of the abolitionists dictates work yet to be done.

With admiration and appreciation of this important and significant undertaking,

Dorothy H. Willsey  
Board of Directors, Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark  
President, Cabinet of Freedom for National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum

## **NATIONAL ABOLITION HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM**

*The National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum honors antislavery abolitionists,  
their work to end slavery, and the legacy of that struggle.  
NAHOF strives to complete the second and ongoing abolition - the moral conviction to end racism.*