

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS ♦ AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES ♦
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES ♦ ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES ♦
FEDERATION OF STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS ♦ NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND LAND GRANT COLLEGES ♦ NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE**

June 19, 2008

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment &
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Wayne Allard
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment &
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Allard:

As you know, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has proposed FY 2009 funding of \$160 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an increase of \$15.3 million above the current year's enacted level. On behalf of the undersigned associations, we strongly urge you to support at least the overall funding level of \$160 million recommended by the House Subcommittee for NEH.

Our members, and the thousands of teachers, scholars, humanities organizations and institutions they represent, use NEH grants to maintain a strong system of academic research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities. The \$15.3 million increase recommended by the House Subcommittee will help restore funding lost more than a decade ago and will begin addressing national needs in the humanities that require serious federal investment and leadership, including:

- educating our nation's workforce in all areas of learning
- preserving our cultural heritage
- advancing knowledge and understanding of ourselves and the new global environment our citizens inhabit.

The \$160 million provided by the House Subcommittee would increase funding (above the FY 2008 level) for the 56 state humanities councils by \$5.3 million through the Federal-State Partnership line. It would also provide much-needed increases for three NEH core programs that have sustained the deepest cuts since 1994, including Research (\$3.3 million), Education (\$1.7 million), and Public Programs (\$1.6 million). The House bill restores important funding for the Challenge Grants Division, another core program, which was cut by \$2.2 million in the President's FY 2009 Budget Request. The bill provides additional funding to advance the NEH's Office of Digital Humanities (\$4.2 million) and the agency's signature *We The People* program (\$5.7 million).

While we strongly support the overall increase provided for NEH, the humanities community is quite concerned about additional cuts to the NEH Preservation and Access Division recommended by the House Subcommittee, beyond those proposed in the President's Budget Request. We ask the Senate Subcommittee for its support in helping to restore funding for this division, which makes grants to preserve and widen access to primary resource materials

important for scholarly research, education, and public programming. The Preservation & Access Division also supports the creation of significant research tools, such as catalogs, databases, dictionaries, translations, atlases, and encyclopedias that document the history of the United States and cultures around the world.

We believe the increase recommended by the House Subcommittee goes a long way toward ensuring that the NEH and the humanities community will continue to play a vital role in preserving our cultural heritage and promoting activities throughout our nation that inform and lift the human spirit. Consequently, we ask the Senate Interior Subcommittee to support FY 2009 funding for NEH of at least \$160 million to help maintain increases provided in the House and restore cuts to Preservation & Access.

We greatly appreciate the Senate's past support for the humanities through NEH and thank you for your consideration of our request.

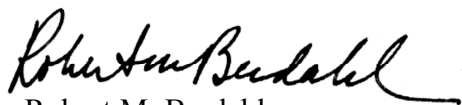
Sincerely,



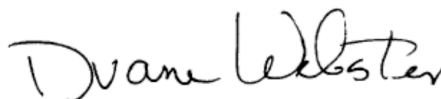
Ford W. Bell, DVM
President
American Association of Museums



Pauline Yu
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Robert M. Berdahl
President
Association of American Universities



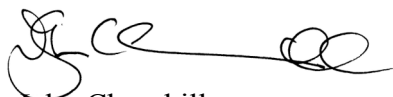
Duane Webster
Executive Director
Association of Research Libraries



Esther Mackintosh
President
Federation of State Humanities Councils



Peter McPherson
President
National Association of Land Grant Colleges
and Universities



John Churchill
President, National Humanities Alliance &
Secretary, The Phi Beta Kappa Society

CC: Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies

The American Association of Museums is the only organization representing the full range of museums – art museums, history museums, science centers, children’s museums, zoos and aquariums, public gardens, and many specialty museums – along with professional staff and volunteers who work for and with museums. AAM currently represents more than 15,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, 3,000 institutions, and 300 corporate members. AAM’s membership is as diverse as the collections contained in the museums it represents. Contact: Gail Ravnitzky Silberglie, Director of Government Relations, 202.289.1818 (www.aam-us.org).

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) is a private, nonprofit federation of 70 national scholarly organizations, and is the preeminent representative of American scholarship in the humanities and related social sciences. Its mission is the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and the social sciences and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among the national societies devoted to such studies. Contact: Steven Wheatley, Vice President, 212.697.1505 x128 (www.acls.org).

The Association of American Universities (AAU) is comprised of 62 leading public and private research universities in the U.S. and Canada. Founded in 1900, AAU is organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU institutions contribute to the humanities and are on the leading edge of innovation, scholarship, and solutions that contribute to the nation's economy, security, and well-being. They award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees. Contact: Mollie Benz Flounlacker, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations, 202.408.7500 (www.aau.edu).

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a nonprofit organization of 123 research libraries in North America. ARL’s members include university libraries, public libraries, government and national libraries. ARL pursues its mission by advancing the goals of its member research libraries, providing leadership in public and information policy to the scholarly and higher education communities, fostering the exchange of ideas and expertise, and shaping a future environment that leverages its interests with those of allied organizations. Contact: Prue Adler, Associate Executive Director, Federal Relations and Information Policy, 202.296.2296 (www.arl.org).

The Federation of State Humanities Councils (FSHC) is the membership association of the state humanities councils across the country. Through research, collaboration, and communication to legislators and the public, the Federation strives to create greater awareness of the humanities in public and private life. Contact: Esther Mackintosh, President, 703.908.9700 (www.statehumanities.org).

The National Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities (NASULGC, A Public University Association) is an association of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and many state public university systems. Its 218 members enroll more than 3.6 million students, award approximately a half-million degrees annually, and have an estimated 20 million alumni. As the nation's oldest higher education association, NASULGC is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. Contact: Daniela Garcia, Legislative Coordinator, Congressional & Governmental Affairs, 202.478.6040 (www.nasulgc.org).

The National Humanities Alliance (NHA) is a coalition of 93 national, state and local organizations and institutions, dedicated to the advancement of education, research, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. Its members include: scholarly and professional associations; higher education associations; organizations of museums, libraries, historical societies and state humanities councils; university-based and independent humanities research centers; colleges and universities. Contact: Jessica Jones Irons, Executive Director, 202.296.4994 x149 (www.nhalliance.org).