Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Chellie Pingree Chairwoman House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies 2007 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable David Joyce Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies 1036 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

We are writing to thank the Subcommittee for its past support of funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and respectfully request your support of a funding level of at least \$204 million for NEH in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Interior, Environment & Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As you know, NEH is the main source of federal support for humanities research, teaching, preservation, public programming, and related activities in the U.S., providing competitive grant funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that empower individuals in every congressional district with critical perspective and knowledge. Furthermore, NEH funding allocated through state humanities councils strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities in every state and territory throughout the nation.

Additionally, investment in the humanities advances vital national interests by fostering a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, preserving our cultural heritage, and protecting our national security. As our world becomes increasingly more interconnected, building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more critical, which is why the majority of our CIA analysts, State Department officials and staff members and diplomats at embassies across the globe are graduates of the humanities – as are leaders ranging from the late Steve Jobs to former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey.

Nationally, summer institutes and seminars for K–12 educators provide teachers with a deeper understanding of history and culture while helping them develop new teaching methods. In a five-year span, these programs have reached more than 11,000 teachers, ultimately enriching the classroom experience for an estimated 2 million students. Through its *Dialogues on the Experience of War* programs, the NEH also brings together veterans and civilians to reflect on powerful literature and art to foster healing and discussion. In relation to current events, NEH has a rich history of supporting efforts to understand geopolitical contexts and NEH-supported English translations of Ukrainian literature has helped bring Ukrainian literature to broader American audiences.

We understand the many difficult choices the Subcommittee faces in constructing its FY 2023 bill, but we believe that strong federal investments in the humanities are crucial for preserving America's place as a world leader in education and innovation as well as provide our nation's citizenry and workforce with the foundation necessary to tackle the challenges of today's globalized world. As billions of dollars are rightfully invested in research, education, science, and technology, we must continue to prioritize robust federal investment in the humanities. We appreciate your past support of NEH and strongly urge your support for this request.

Sincerely,

David E. Price

Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred

Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss

Member of Congress

Karen Bass

Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty

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Juan Vargas

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