

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2006

The Honorable Charles Taylor  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

We understand that your Subcommittee faces extremely difficult choices in crafting its FY 2007 bill. It is in this context that we are writing to request increased funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). We believe that federal investment in the humanities is critical to educating our citizens, documenting and preserving our rich and diverse cultural heritage, and helping our country address the many challenges we face in the 21st century.

For the second year in a row, the President has proposed flat funding for the NEH. In addition, the Administration's FY 2007 budget request would cut funding for NEH grant programs by \$1.3 million to offset mandated salary and overhead cost increases. We are deeply concerned about the gradual erosion in funding experienced in recent years for the agency's core programs, including Research, Education, Preservation and Access, Public Programs, Challenge Grants and the Federal/State Partnership. We respectfully request that the Subcommittee provide a \$15 million increase for the NEH in FY 2007, bringing total funding for NEH to a level of \$156 million. Additional funding will strengthen NEH's ability to support high-quality, peer-reviewed humanities projects throughout the United States.

Over the last four decades, NEH has promoted "wisdom and vision" by advancing the study and understanding of history, literature, art, language, archaeology, philosophy and other humanities subjects, throughout the United States. With the relatively small amount of funding provided by Congress to the agency each year, the Endowment supplies important seed money for a variety of projects and programs, publication of scholarly editions of the papers of historical and cultural figures, preservation of historically important books and newspapers, seminars and institutes for K-12 teachers and college and university faculty, television documentaries, and educational museum exhibitions. The state humanities councils, in partnership with the NEH, reach millions of Americans each year in all states and most congressional districts, with such activities as teacher institutes, literacy programs, programs on local history and culture, and support for local cultural and educational groups, community groups, and scholars.


Beginning in 2002, at the direction of President Bush and with the support of Congress, NEH began a historic initiative, *We the People*. *We the People* is a multi-faceted, agency-wide program designed to expand awareness and knowledge of our nation's history and culture, and to enhance appreciation of our civic institutions. We are pleased that the Administration has pledged continued support for this program, and that funding for *We the People* is maintained in the FY 2007 budget proposal.

Today, the humanities play an increasingly important role in preparing our students and the public to be citizens in a global society. Because the humanities encourage individuals to seek knowledge and wisdom, and to reflect deeply on the values and traditions that have shaped our nation, the mission of the NEH continues to be a worthy national enterprise. Additional funding will support NEH's ability to promote teaching, research, preservation, and public programs in the humanities throughout the United States. It will strengthen the base of our democracy, and prepare our citizens with the broad range of tools necessary to live and thrive in our rapidly changing world.

We realize that both of you have personally worked to ensure continued funding of the NEH. We appreciate your attention to this matter, and urge you to support an increase in FY 2007 for the NEH.

Sincerely,

  
DAVID PRICE

  
JIM LEACH

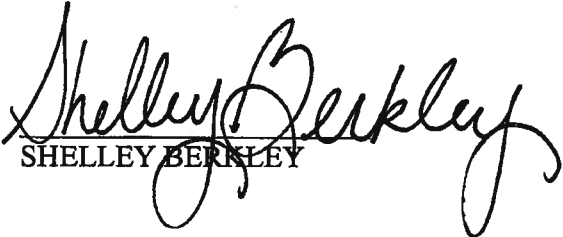
  
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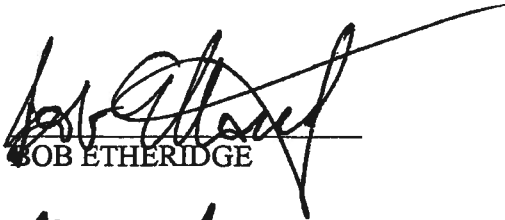
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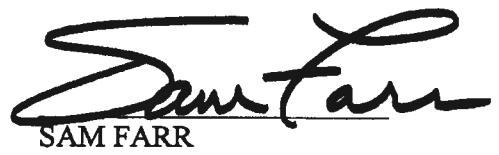
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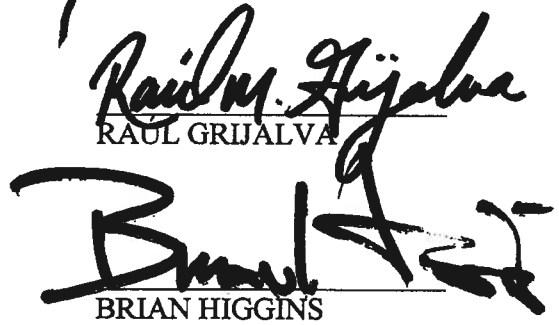
  
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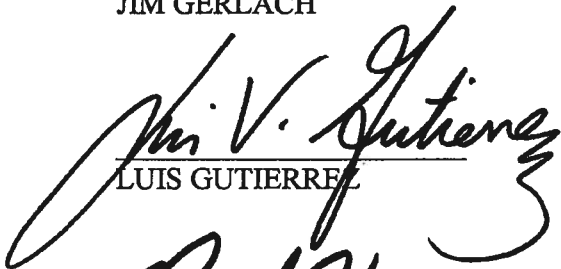
  
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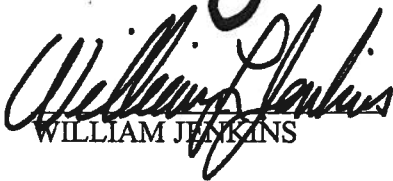
  
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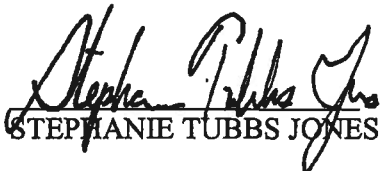
  
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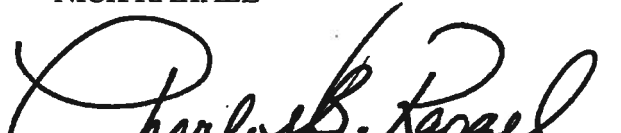
  
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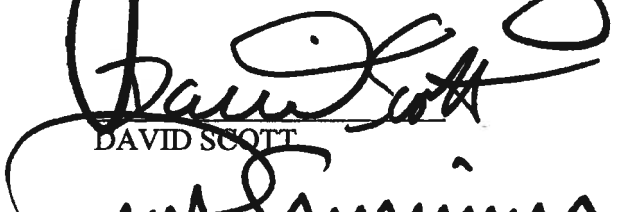
  
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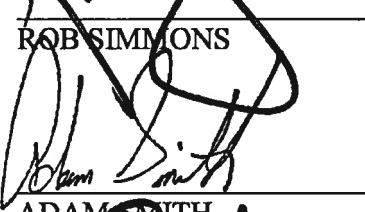
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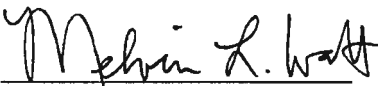
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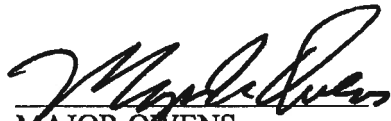
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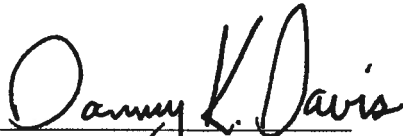
  
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