

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2006

The Honorable Joseph Knollenberg
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation, Treasury,
Housing and Urban Development,
The Judiciary, and the District of
Columbia
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Transportation, Treasury,
Housing and Urban Development,
The Judiciary, and the District of
Columbia
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Knollenberg and Ranking Member Olver:

With an understanding that the constraints on the budget this year have never been greater, and that your Subcommittee faces unusually difficult choices in crafting its FY 2007 appropriations bill, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee reject the Administration's request to zero out funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Instead, we request that the Subcommittee provide \$10 million for grants and \$2 million for staffing and administrative support for this small but essential federal program.

For over 40 years, the NHPRC has played an essential federal leadership role in preserving and publishing important historical records that document American history. The NHPRC has an outstanding success record of using a small amount of federal funds to leverage other contributions. It is important that the NHPRC be able to continue preserving our nation's historical records, promoting regional and national coordination in archives-related matters, and supporting a wide range of other activities relating to America's documentary heritage.

NHPRC grants to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas helped those states assess the damage to archives and records caused by Hurricane Katrina and strengthen statewide disaster preparedness for these vital repositories of citizens' records. NHPRC is proposing to use a portion of the 2007 funding to broaden that program and assist all states in developing state disaster plans for both vital and historical records. This is part of a vision of a larger, formula-based program which could assist all states in the future.

We applaud the work you have done in the past in support of this program, and we urge you to provide \$10 million in grants plus \$2 million in administrative support for the NHPRC.

Sincerely,



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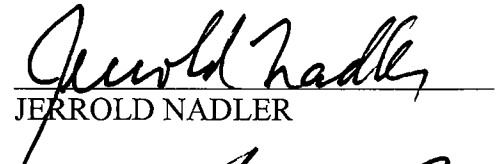

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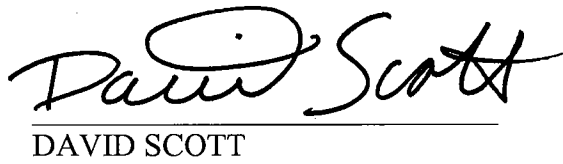

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