

DAVID PRICE
4TH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA



2162 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1784

5400 TRINITY ROAD, SUITE 205
RALEIGH, NC 27607-3815
(919) 859-5999

88 VILCOM CENTER, SUITE 140
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514-1660
(919) 967-7924

N.C. MUTUAL PLAZA
411 WEST CHAPEL HILL STREET
DURHAM, NC 27701-3642
(919) 688-3004

www.price.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIR, HOMELAND SECURITY
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TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

The Honorable José Serrano, Chair
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano:

We are writing to urge the Subcommittee to maintain funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) in fiscal year (FY) 2009.

Although it is a lesser known program of the National Archives and Records Administration, the NHPRC is the only grant-making organization - public or private - whose exclusive mission is to provide national leadership in promoting the preservation and use of the materials of our documentary heritage. We believe these efforts are essential to understanding American democracy, history, and culture.

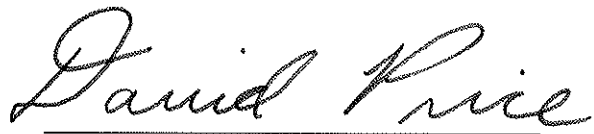
The NHPRC has funded hundreds of projects designed to preserve historical records of enduring value and cooperative state, regional, and national projects that address common archival issues, such as the complex problem of electronic historical records. It is currently helping to fund dozens of papers projects, including those of some of our Founding Fathers: Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, John Adams, and James Madison.

FY 2004 was the last year the NHPRC was funded at its authorized level of \$10 million, and the program has been targeted for elimination in the President's budget for the fourth year in a row. Congress has continually rejected the President's proposal to eliminate this unique program, and we are asking the Committee to do so once again. We ask that you provide \$10 million in grants plus \$2 million in administrative support for the NHPRC, for a total of \$12 million, in FY 2009.

Even with the relatively small amount of funding provided to the agency each year, the NHPRC has demonstrated great success at leveraging private sector support. However, if the President's recommendation is adopted, documentary publications projects, already understaffed and under-funded, will lose experienced staff and their progress will be slowed if not shut down.

We are aware of the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in crafting its FY 2009 bill, but we believe that federal support for NHPRC, which has played an essential role in preserving and publishing important historical records that document American history, is absolutely warranted. We urge you to maintain funding for the NHPRC in FY 2009.

Sincerely,



David Price
Member of Congress



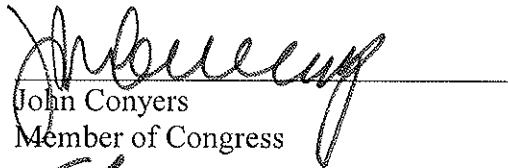
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