

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

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Simpson  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment & Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Simpson:

We are writing to urge the Subcommittee \$230 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 in an effort towards restoring funding for NEH to the FY 1994 level of \$258 million, adjusted for inflation. This \$75 million increase over the FY 2009 enacted level would help to address essential needs in humanities education and research.

Even with the relatively small amount of funding provided to the endowment, NEH is the single most important source of support for the humanities. Each year, NEH grants support strengthened institutional capacity, jobs, and professional development for thousands of scholars, educators, curators, librarians, public historians, museum professionals, filmmakers and others around the country. Their work is at the heart of efforts to conserve and nurture America's heritage, bring the humanities to the community, and educate the next generation of Americans.

Unfortunately, current demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding available. Each year, as billions of dollars are rightfully invested in research and education in science and technology, the relative federal investment in the humanities falls further behind. In FY 2008, only 16% of competitive, peer-reviewed NEH project proposals were funded, compared to a 26% funding rate for merit-reviewed projects at the National Science Foundation. We cannot allow this gap to continue to grow. The requested increase would help close the opportunity gap by providing \$40 million for national competitive humanities grant programs, creating parity in the success rate of humanities and science-based grants.

This request would also bolster support for the state humanities councils, which work in partnership with the NEH to reach millions of Americans each year through teacher institutes, literacy initiatives, programs on local history and culture, and support for local cultural and educational groups, community groups, and scholars. A recent survey of state humanities council resources and capacities reveals that councils would need an additional \$150 million to meet the need for programs and infrastructure support in their states. With the requested additional funds, state humanities councils would receive \$25 million for operating grants to expand their reach and address unmet needs.

Increased funding would also provide about \$10 million for NEH to introduce or expand support in several areas where federal leadership is critically needed, such as international education and global society perspectives (at all levels of learning), digital humanities projects, graduate education, and data collection and dissemination of information on the state of the humanities.

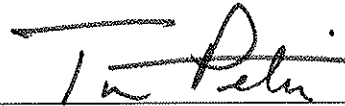
We are aware of the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in crafting its FY 2010 bill, especially in our current economic downturn, but we believe that strong federal support for the humanities is an important investment in the lives of our fellow citizens, the well-being of our democracy, and our nation's continued status as a world leader. As the legislation that established the NEH forty years ago states, "An advanced civilization must not limit its efforts to science and technology alone, but must give full value and support to the other great branches of scholarly and cultural activity in order to achieve a better understanding of the past, a better analysis of the present, and a better view of the future."

We appreciate your past support of NEH and urge you to provide a robust increase in FY 2010 funding for the endowment to advance the nation's study and understanding of history, literature, foreign language, and other subject in this diverse and essential field of study.

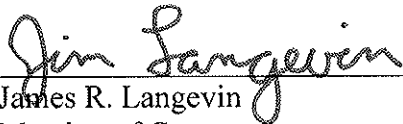
Sincerely,



David Price  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus



Thomas E. Petri  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus



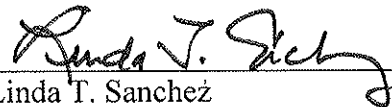
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



David Loeb sack  
Member of Congress



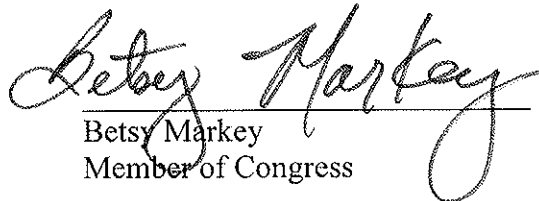
Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



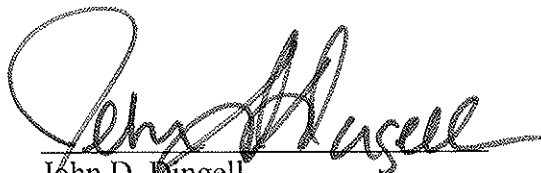
Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress



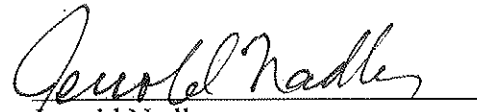
Michael A. Arcuri  
Member of Congress

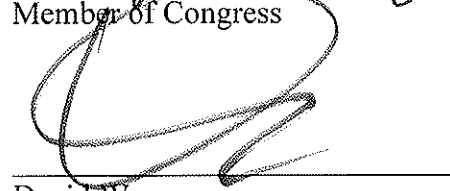


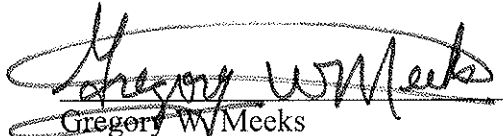
Betsy Markey  
Member of Congress

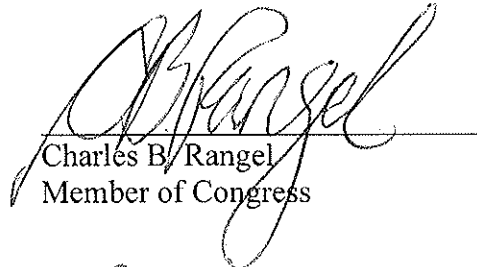
  
John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress


  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress


  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
David Wu  
Member of Congress


  
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

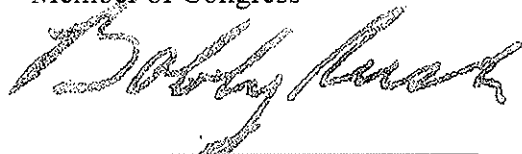
  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

  
James L. Oberstar  
Member of Congress

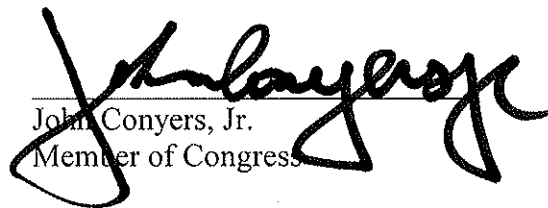
  
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress


  
Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

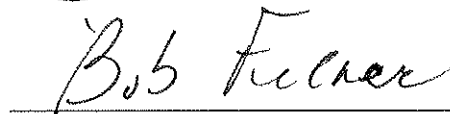
  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

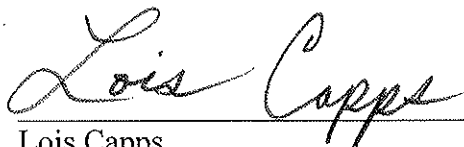
  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

  
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress

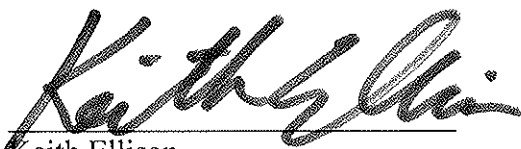
  
Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress



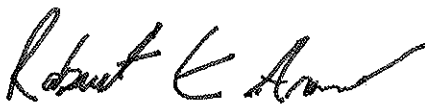
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



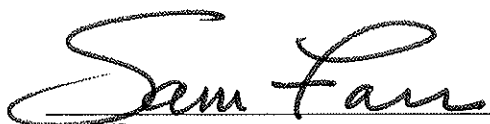
Robert Wexler  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Robert E. Andrews  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



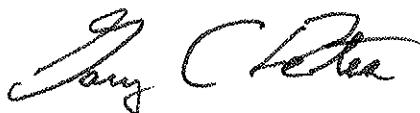
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



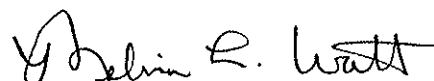
Brad Miller  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters  
Member of Congress



Melvin L. Watt  
Member of Congress



Robert C. Scott  
Member of Congress



Bart Gordon  
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress



Nick J. Rahall, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne  
Member of Congress



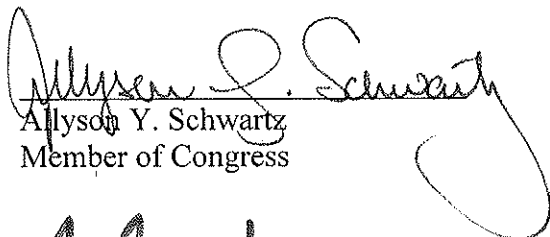
Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress




Mazie K. Hirono  
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



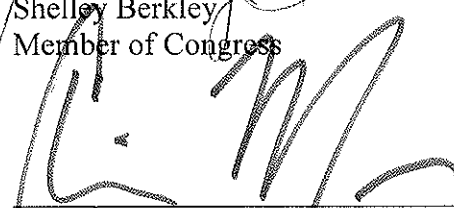
Bob Etheridge  
Member of Congress



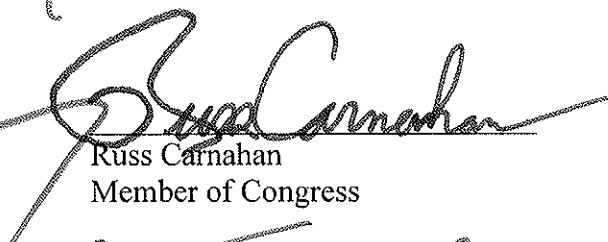
Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress



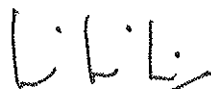
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Christopher S. Murphy  
Member of Congress



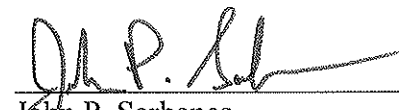
Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress



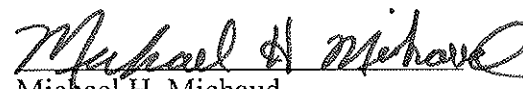
Gregorio Sablan  
Member of Congress



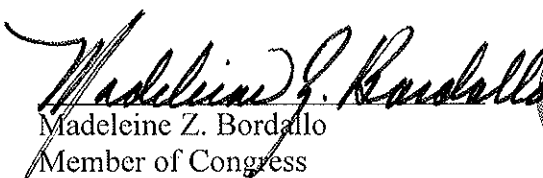
Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



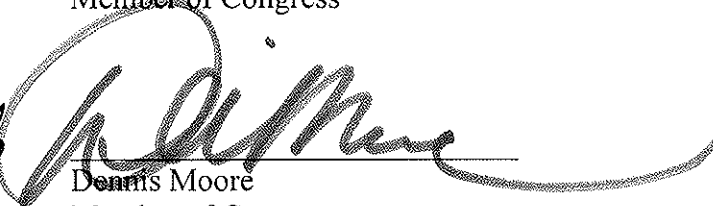
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



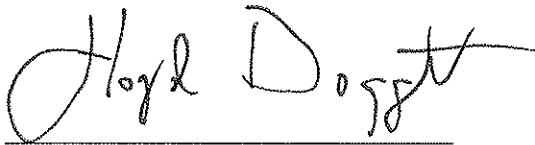
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Member of Congress




Dennis Moore  
Member of Congress



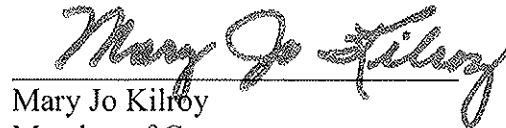
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



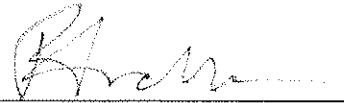
David Scott  
Member of Congress



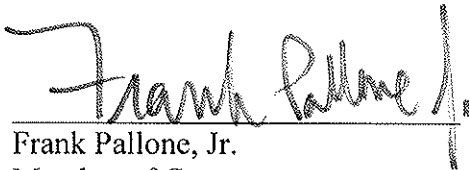
Mary Jo Kilroy  
Member of Congress



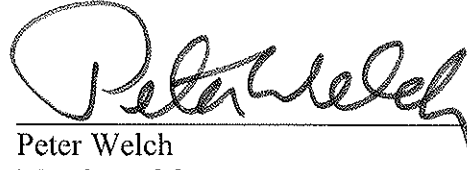
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Paul W. Hodes  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



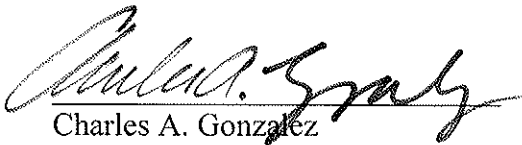
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



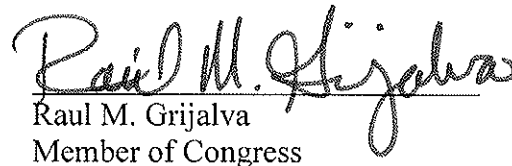
Pete Fortney Stark  
Member of Congress



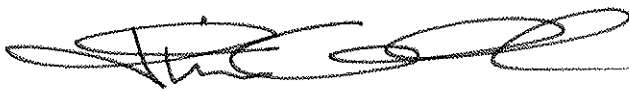
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



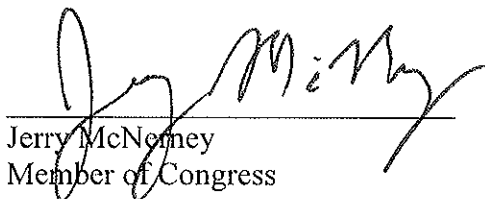
Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



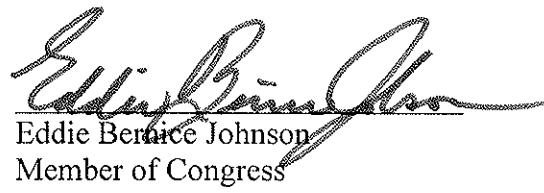
Jim Gerlach  
Member of Congress




Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress




Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



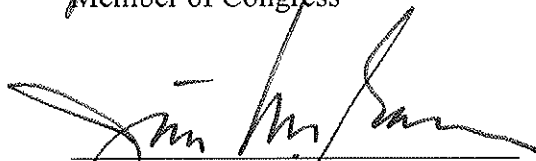
---

John A. Yarmouth  
Member of Congress



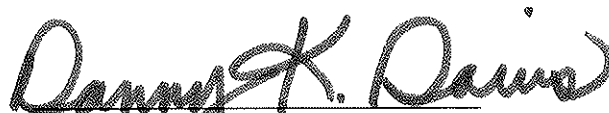
---

Dale E. Kildee  
Member of Congress



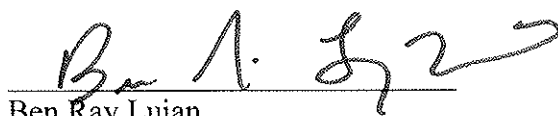
---

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress




---

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress




---

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



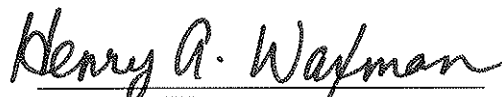
---

Vernon J. Ehlers  
Member of Congress



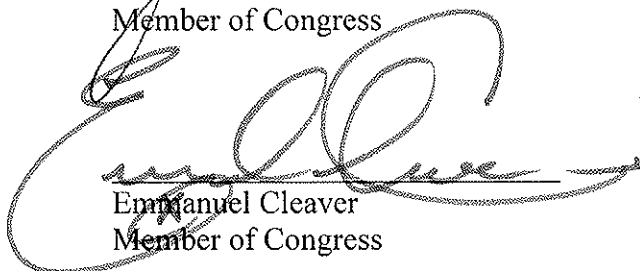
---

Joe Sestak  
Member of Congress



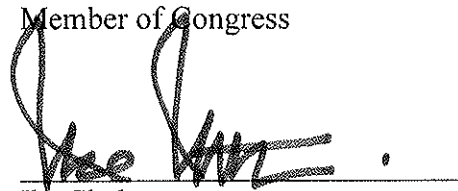
---

Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress



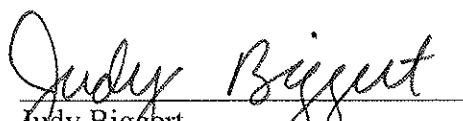
---

Emmanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



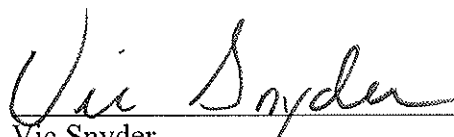
---

Ike Skelton  
Member of Congress



---

Judy Biggert  
Member of Congress



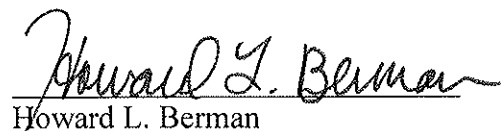
---

Vic Snyder  
Member of Congress



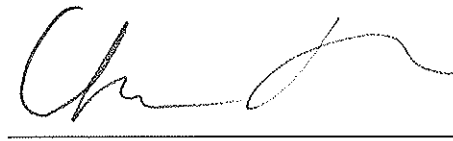
---

Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



---

Howard L. Berman  
Member of Congress



---

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



---

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Mike Ross  
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



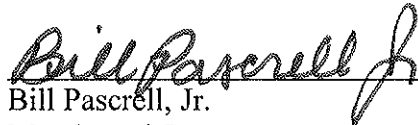
William D. Delahunt  
Member of Congress



Todd Russell Platts  
Member of Congress



Ellen O. Tauscher  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Howard Coble  
Member of Congress



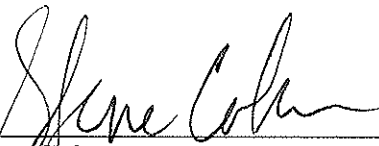
Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Henry C. Johnson  
Member of Congress



David G. Reichert  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Lee Terry  
Member of Congress