

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 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:

As strong supporters of the humanities, we are writing urge you to provide \$170 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which will be under consideration during the upcoming conference negotiations.

We appreciate your support of the NEH. As the single most important source of funding for the humanities, NEH plays a vital role in the preservation and promotion of our national identity. With your leadership, the House approved \$170 million for the agency, a \$15 million increase over the current year. This level of funding provides much-needed increases for national and state programs and expands the agency's capacity to support high-quality projects and programs throughout the country, including:

- collaborative research and digital humanities projects;
- fellowships for college/university-based scholars and independent researchers;
- professional development workshops for teachers and faculty;
- public programs and exhibits at museums, libraries, and historical societies;
- film, radio, and TV programs;
- preservation of historically significant collections;
- capacity building for humanities institutions and programs; and
- the 56 State humanities councils located in every U.S. state and territory

As you know, the current Senate Committee-approved bill includes only \$161.3 million for NEH. With \$8.7 million less than the level approved by the House under H.R. 2996, the agency would struggle to keep pace with the high demand for its programs. The Senate bill would provide an increase of only \$1.3 million for national programs, which represents the pool of funds available to support competitive grant programs relied on by scholars and eligible non-profit institutions across the country, including: colleges, universities, libraries, museums, scholarly societies, research centers, state humanities councils. In FY 2008, only 16% of competitive, peer-reviewed NEH project proposals were funded compared to a 26% funding rate for merit-reviewed project proposals at the National Science Foundation.

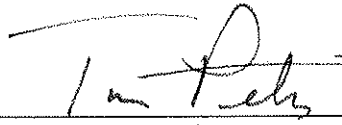
At a time when non-profit associations and education institutions at all levels are already under significant pressure for resources, it is even more important that we invest in the humanities, to advance the nation's study and understanding of history, literature, foreign language, and other subject in this diverse and essential field of study.

We are aware of the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in conferencing its FY 2010 bill, 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. We appreciate your past support of NEH and hope that you will be able to retain the robust House figures in conference.

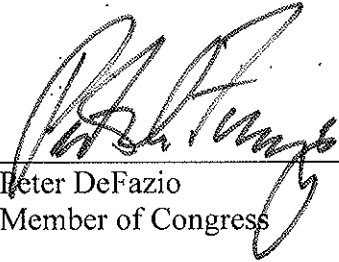
Sincerely,



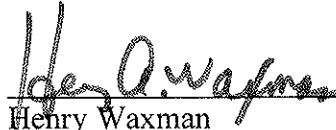
David Price
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Humanities Caucus



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



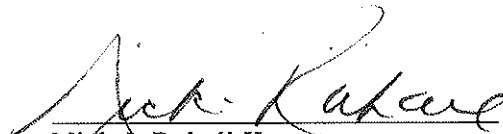
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



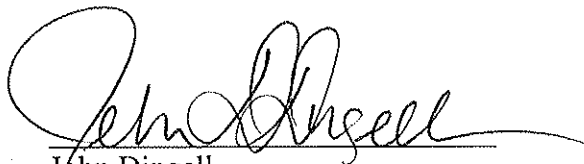
Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



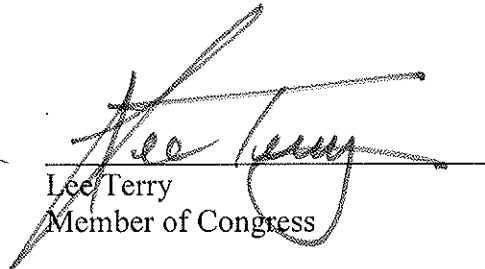
Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



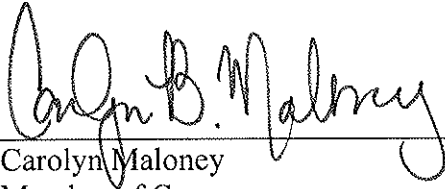
Nick J. Rahall II
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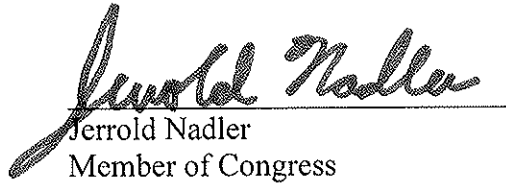
John Dingell
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Lee Terry
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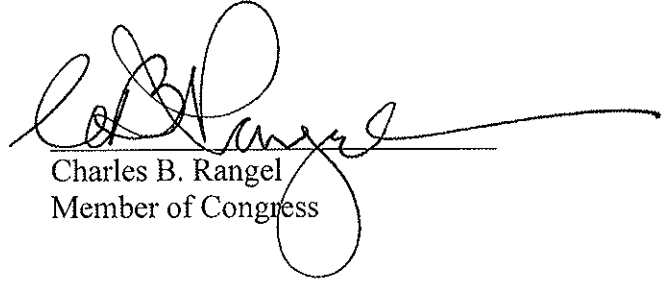
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



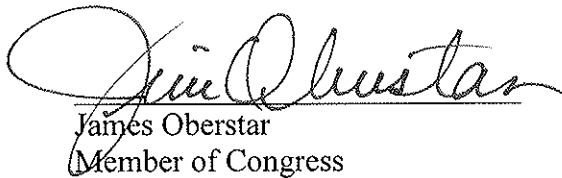
Jerrold Nadler
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David Wu
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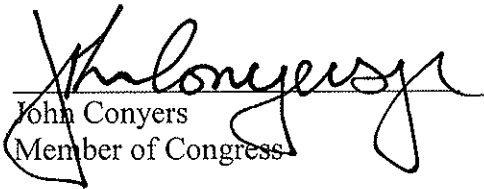
Charles B. Rangel
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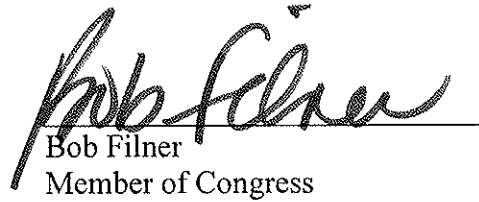
James Oberstar
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Rosa DeLauro
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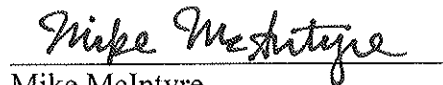
John Conyers
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Bob Filner
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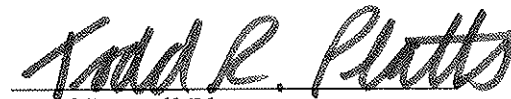
Jim Matheson
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Mike McIntyre
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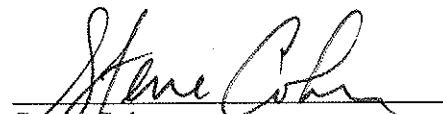
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

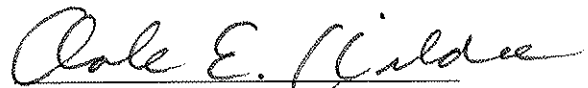



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

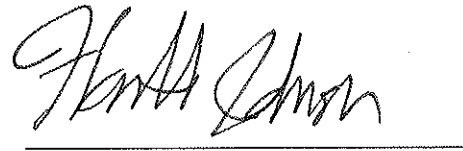



Steve Cohen
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Jim McDermott
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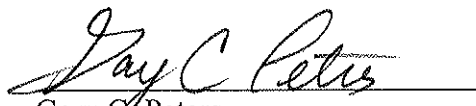

Dale E. Kildee
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Lois Capps
Member of Congress

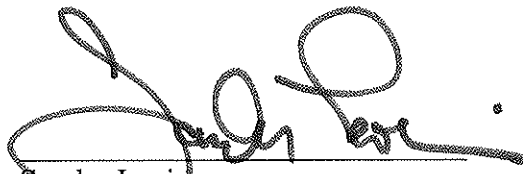

Hank Johnson
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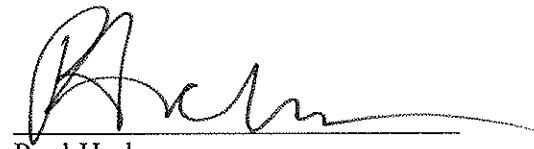

Timothy Johnson
Member of Congress

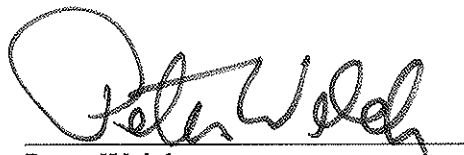

Brad Miller
Member of Congress

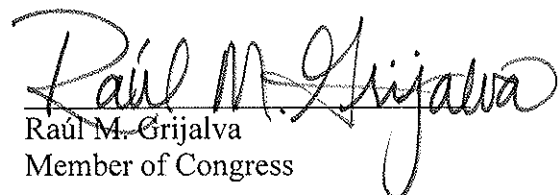

Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

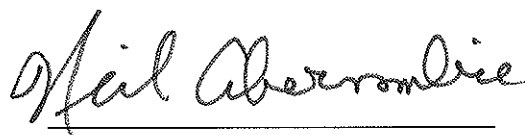

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

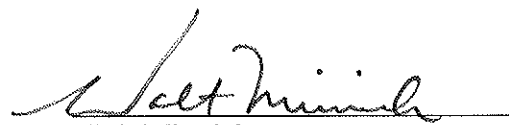

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

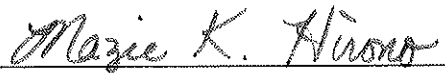

Paul Hodes
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Peter Welch
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Neil Abercrombie
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Walt Minnick
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Mazie K. Hirono
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Niki Tsongas
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Dennis Moore
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James Langevin
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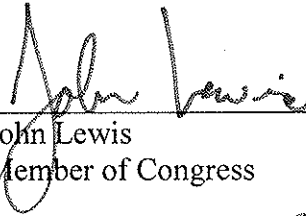
Doris O. Matsui
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Pete Stark
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Dina Titus
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John Lewis
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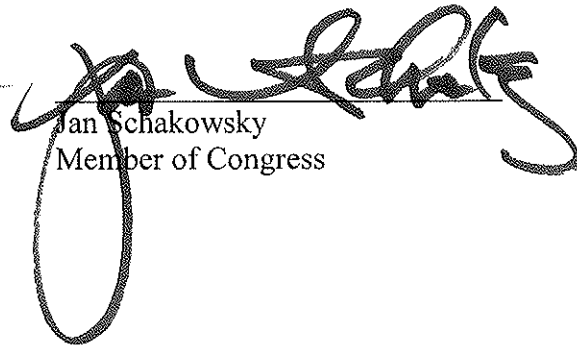
John Yarmuth
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James McGovern
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Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
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